

MIAMI TODAY

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New Gables tower nearly finished, renovation signs first tenant, pg. 13

OFFICE SPACE

International condo buyers spurring office building interest also, pg. 13



AWAITING BURN NOTICE: Thus far, producers for the USA Network hit show "Burn Notice" haven't reached out to the City of Miami to extend their lease at the city-owned Coconut Grove Exposition Center, **Daniel Newhoff**, assistant director for the City of Miami Department of Public Facilities, wrote in an e-mail. The current lease expires in September. The show has leased the center since 2007. When "Burn Notice" does stop using the facility, the city plans to raze the expo center – which has lost money – for conversion to park land and waterfront beautification under the Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan.

BALLPARK BATTLES: Miami-Dade is seeking reimbursement for nearly \$50 million from general obligation bonds it has spent to finance the construction of the new Florida Marlins stadium, but while the county commission two months ago gave Mayor **Carlos Alvarez** 60 days to initiate dialogue, talks haven't begun. In order for terms to be addressed, the county, City of Miami and team would have to agree to open the contract. While county communications director **Vicki Mallette** said there were no updates regarding negotiations, county spokeswoman **Suzy Truitt** said the mayor plans to meet with the county attorney's office to discuss legal options but has yet to do so.

SEAPORT VISITS: Port of Miami passenger traffic rose 28.9% in October to 346,513 compared to 268,838 travelers in October 2009, according to the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau. Passengers are counted upon departure and upon return. Seaport officials attribute the rise to new ships such as Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Epic, which began sailing from Miami in July and is one of the port's largest cruise ships.

ALL-STAR LINEUP: US Education Secretary **Arne Duncan** has been added to the lineup of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Jan. 11 Economic Summit. The event already featured newly inaugurated Gov. **Rick Scott** giving a keynote address and an economic outlook from JPMorgan Chase Senior Economist **Jim Glassman**. The event is to bring together more than 20 speakers and panelists to discuss the future of industries like automotive sales, healthcare and international trade. *Details: www.miamichamber.com.*

MAYOR'S BALL: City of Miami Mayor **Tomas P. Regalado** is to hold his first Mayor's Ball at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at the InterContinental Hotel, 100 Chopin Plaza. The ball is to benefit the Miami Police Athletic League, a nonprofit organization that provides resources to keep inner-city youth active and safe. Ball tickets are \$100 per person, \$900 per table of 10.

THE ACHIEVER



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Isaac Prilleltensky
Developing leadership at UM's School of Education

The profile is on Page 4

Film work in county sets record

By ZACHARY S. FAGENSON

The Miami-Dade Office of Film and Entertainment in 2010 issued the most filming permits and hauled in the most revenue since becoming the county's central clearinghouse for permitting and collecting revenues in 2008.

Revenues from permits in 2010 totaled \$111,000, up sharply from \$86,000 in 2009 and more than the \$100,000 collected in 2008, when the number of projects seemed less battered by the recession.

After plummeting 16% in 2009 from 2008, the number of permitted entertainment projects in Miami-Dade in 2010 climbed out of the ditch.

A total of 1,027 were shot in 2010, accounting for \$121.7 million spent on more than 10,000 production days and 22,236 hotel room nights.

That's a sharp contrast from 2009, when only 840 projects were shot with \$84.7 million spent on 7,742 production days and 17,163 hotel nights.

"It was the recession and lack of incentive" that dragged numbers down, according to Jeff Peel, director of the Miami-Dade Office of Film & Entertainment.

State lawmakers in late 2009 approved a five-year, \$242 million film incentive plan that took effect in early summer. The vast majority of that money is already committed to 92 projects, according to the Governor's Office of Film and Entertainment.

The sharpest increase from 2009 to 2010 came in television production, as projects increased from 197 to 265.

Only the number of motion pictures remained flat from 2009 to 2010 at 38, while commercials shot in Miami-Dade increased from 100 to 135. Still shoots increased about 10%, from 406 to 446, and music videos shot crept from 38 in 2009 to 44 in 2010.

An "other" category on film office reports, which Mr. Peel said "are generally Internet-related productions," climbed from 63 in 2009 to 99 in 2010.

Cleanup of park oil, arsenic residue under budget

By ASHLEY HOPKINS

Miami-Dade's \$275 million Museum Park project has met a year-long series of snags, but despite delays the first phase may be coming in under budget.

Miami's Community Redevelopment Agency provided \$2 million to remediate soil at the Bicentennial Park site, the first step toward construction. While some payments remain pending, agency Executive Director Pieter Bockweg said he expects remediation to total about \$750,000.

"The soil was not as contaminated as previously thought," he said.

Now that remediation is complete, he said, his agency should receive all invoices within a couple of weeks. The Community Redevelopment Agency and the City of Miami review these invoices to insure that work performed matches requirements of the project's grant.

"The invoices do get scrutinized," Mr. Bockweg said.

Suffolk Construction Co. completed over a three-month span the remediation on the eight acres that are to house new homes for the Miami Science and Miami Art mu-

seums.

Tim Sterling, Suffolk vice president of operations, said workers cleared out more than 3,000 tons of contaminated soil, which he called an average amount given the size of the remediation project.

The soil, which contained high levels of arsenic and petroleum on a site that decades ago housed tanks for the Belcher Oil terminal, was trucked to a landfill in Medley.

The art museum should complete construction in 2012 and open in 2013 with the science museum to finish the following year, said Michael Spring, director of the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs.

The museums had been promised a combined \$275 million in voter-approved general obligation bonds, \$100 million for the art museum and \$175 million for science. Financing was withheld while each museum raised private funds to help fund design and construction, and fund distributions have yet to be determined for future bond issues.

Progress stalled late last year due to a depleting tax roll and lower-than-expected debt service millage, but as the museums

have proven their ability to raise private funds, the county is moving forward with the project, Mr. Spring said.

The \$200 million Miami Art Museum has raised more than \$48.8 million privately, \$17 million more than needed to start construction, said director Thom Collins. According to Aaron Gordon, an outside spokesperson for the museum, \$31 million of the funds raised is to go toward the \$131 million construction. The additional \$100 million is to come through the county bond funding, more than \$80 million of which is still outstanding. The museum plans to raise an additional \$55 million privately to go toward the operating endowment, Mr. Gordon said.

Gillian Thomas, president of the Miami Science Museum, says her organization has raised \$26 million privately. It must raise \$100 million in order to get \$175 million in county funds, but she said construction can begin before all funds are raised. While Ms. Thomas said private funds have been making their way down the financial pipeline, she wouldn't comment on how much of what was pledged is in hand.

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THE INSIDER

SURTAX UPDATE: Miami-Dade County and five municipalities, Coral Gables, Hialeah, Miami, Miami Beach and Miami Gardens, continue to work together to reach a compromise over revenue-sharing from the transit tax – a half-percent tax for transportation improvements on the first \$5,000 of a sales transaction – with Cutler Bay, Doral and Miami Gardens, which have received no funding since they incorporated after the surtax's 2002 passage. Although informal working groups have been held, no formal conflict resolution procedures or mediation have occurred, said **Suzy Trutie**, a county spokesperson.

NEW GIG: The City of Miami has a new communications director: longtime journalist **Angel Zayón**, whose largely Spanish-language reporting experience includes working as a senior investigative reporter/weekend anchor from 1989-1999 for Telemundo, news director/anchor for América TeVé, a national correspondent for Univision Network and a program host on Radio Paz. He was most recently president/chief operating officer of La Ley Broadcasting School and had an unsuccessful run for the Miami-Dade County School Board in 2008. His salary is \$70,000, he said.

MERCY HONORS: Bishop **Agustin Román** has been honored by Mercy Hospital with the 2010 Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley Award. Monsignor Román, known as the first Cuban in 200 years to be appointed bishop in the US, served as the hospital's chaplain from 1967-1973. He was presented with the award at a mass celebrating the hospital's 60th anniversary.

LOCAL ART: The 2011 "I Art Miami" series is to launch Jan. 12 with an opening reception from 6-10 p.m. at Markowicz Fine Art, One NE 40th St., Miami. The series features a collection of original works by a different local artist each month. January's exhibition is Clara Poupel's "My Rhapsody in Green," the debut of the artist's new collection aimed at raising awareness toward living a healthier life. Ends Feb. 5. RSVP for reception required. *Details: (786) 362-5546 or info@markowiczfineart.com or www.markowiczfineart.com.*

CITY BOARD: Friday is the last day to apply for a spot on the City of Miami Community Relations Board, a 13-member group of City of Miami residents appointed by the commission and mayor. The board, which serves the commission in an advisory capacity, recommends educational and social programs aimed at eliminating discrimination and improving community relations. Members are expected to serve at least 10 hours a month. Interested City of Miami residents are invited to apply online at www.miamigov.com/crb or send their resume to Office of the City Manager, 444 SW Second Ave., 10th Floor, Miami 33130, Attn: Damian Perez, or to damianperez@miamigov.com. *Details: (305) 416-1437.*

TRUMP'S FIRE: Real estate magnate and reality TV personality **Donald**



Donald J. Trump

J. Trump is going to burn a \$210 million mortgage loan his company has paid off on a local condominium. Mr. Trump, chief executive officer of the Trump Organization, is to strike a match Friday to ceremoniously burn the paid-off construction loan for The Trump Royale, a luxurious oceanfront condominium in Sunny Isles Beach. The 384-unit condominium was developed through a partnership between Mr. Trump and the father-son team of **Michael** and **Gil Dezer** of Dezer Properties. The \$350 million property was finished in 2008 and is part of the \$750 million Trump Grande Ocean Resort & Residences.



Gil Dezer

PENDING SALES UP: Miami-Dade's pending home sales, including single-family and condos, jumped almost 29% in December compared to December 2009, increasing from 8,105 to 10,437 sales. However, the total of pending sales in December was down sixth-tenths of a percent from 10,495 in November, according to the Miami Association of Realtors and the Southeast Florida Multiple Listing Service. Pending sales are transactions that are under contract but awaiting closing, which generally happens within one to two months. The condo market continues to outperform the single-family market, as condo pending sales rose 40.5% compared to a year ago, growing from 4,394 to 6,173, the report shows. Pending sales of single-family homes increased only by 14.9% from 2009, from 3,711 to 4,264. "Rising pending and closed sales indicate evident demand for local properties," said **Jack H. Levine**, the association's chairman. "We expect the local market to continue to improve as the economy and job markets recover and the inventory of distressed properties continues to be absorbed."

HABITAT HOMES: County commissioners have unanimously approved allowing Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami, a Florida-base nonprofit that builds and renovates homes, to acquire eight lots being returned to the county by Muro Investments, which was unable to develop the properties. Habitat for Humanity has agreed to pay \$15,877 in taxes and citations owed by Muro to the county in exchange for the lots, which are designated for additional housing units.

CREW'S AGENDA: The new year brings new leaders and set of plans to the Commercial Real Estate Women, also known as CREW. **Lyan Fernandez**, who is taking over as president, is launching Membership Matters, a regional awareness and education campaign to encourage commercial realty professionals to get more involved in their industry's community and build stronger professional ties. "While getting a business card and following up is a step in the right direction, showing your peers how you work – through participation in committees, boards – is the most effective way to gain respect and, in turn, see the fruits of your labor pay off with more business referrals," said Ms. Fernandez, executive vice president of TotalBank. CREW's new president-elect is **Maria Juncadella** of Fairchild Partners, the secretary is **Tanya Acosta** of Bank of America, and treasurer is **Sonia Cabello** of CDC Builders.

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Lyan Fernandez

10,900 fewer businesses licensed in Miami-Dade than 3 years ago

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Over the past three years, the number of local companies applying for tax receipts needed to operate in Miami-Dade has dropped 6.5%. As county companies begin to fall off, officials in the tax collector's office say there's no telling how long the trend could continue.

In all, 10,900 fewer businesses were licensed in Miami-Dade in the just-concluded fiscal year than there were three years earlier.

Anyone doing business within the county must display a Miami-Dade County local business tax receipt as well as a receipt from the municipality where the company is located. Jurgen Teintze, chief of the business tax section of the tax collector's office, says individuals and companies must buy the \$50 postcard-sized document before starting operation and display it near registers "so any citizen can see they're taxpayers."

While many business owners have decided to sell or switch management in recent years, others are closing down shop entirely, Mr. Teintze said. As fewer and fewer new companies apply for receipts, the number of businesses in Miami-Dade

FEWER MIAMI-DADE BUSINESSES			
YEAR	Active, Collected Local Business Tax Receipts	Additions processed	Became inactive or did not pay
'06-'07	168,641	23,374	21,854
'07-'08	164,775	21,713	27,240
'08-'09	161,742	21,157	24,746
'09-'10	157,741	19,783	25,158

has been steadily declining.

In fiscal 2006-2007, 23,374 new companies applied for receipts while 21,854 businesses became inactive or did not pay, putting the total at 168,641. This was the last year there were more additions than deletions.

In 2007-2008, 21,713 new companies applied for receipts and 27,240 decided not to renew, totaling 164,775. In 2008-2009, 21,157 additions and 24,746 deletions were processed, totaling 161,742. By 2009-2010, numbers had dropped to 19,783 additions, 25,158 deletions and 157,741 total businesses.

Mr. Teintze said he couldn't forecast whether the trend would continue.

"I don't have a crystal ball," he said.

The year-long receipts run from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Those not renewed by Sept. 30 are delinquent. Delinquent business owners must pay a penalty of 10% for October and an added 5% each month thereafter, providing fees don't exceed 25% of the local business tax.

Personal receipts aren't transferable and won't be issued without a valid social security or employer identification number. The tax collector's office, Mr. Teintze said, keeps a database of all corporations licensed with the state, complete with the owner's name, mailing and business address.

Martinez sees Homestead as hub to film Latin American telenovelas

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Soap fans may soon see more of Miami-Dade on the small screen.

As Joe Martinez took over Jan. 1 as county commission chairman once again, the former police officer planned to see what can be done to bring Central and South American telenovela film crews to the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Since his first commission chairmanship in 2004, Mr. Martinez said in a far-ranging interview, he has worked to make conditions favorable for area businesses. As nearby counties like Broward and Monroe often offer tax breaks to local companies, he said he has worked with the Beacon Council and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce to make sure Miami-Dade retains business.

"We can't solely survive on tourism," he said. "That cannot be our main issue.... I've always equated Miami-Dade to the business equivalent of the geographic equator. We're in the middle of everything."

In 2001 a group of investors from New York and Palm Beach presented movie studio plans to the county commission in hopes of shooting a World War II film at Homestead.

At the time, John Corso, producer, director and co-author of *Lone Eagle: Legend of the Red Tails*, told the commission that based on his estimates, a studio could contribute \$300 million to the local economy. He said the base had enough space to accommodate more than 140 sets and



'We have the ability to do it here. We have the weather. We have the people who are able to do it, the expertise, the professionalism.'

Joe Martinez

that South Florida's weather and professional movie crews made it an ideal location for filming.

Mr. Martinez worked to bring the movie studio to the 700-acre Air Force base and said he even had an architect design a rendering of the facility. While investors intended the base to become a permanent home for future film productions, in the end the commissioner couldn't garner enough support to move the project forward.

As he enters his second chairmanship, Mr. Martinez said he'd like to revisit the issue.

As Showtime's *Dexter*, USA's *Burn Notice* and CBS's *CSI Miami* are shot in Miami-Dade, the new chairman said he thought Central and South American telenovelas could be filmed here too.

Homestead, Mr. Martinez said, is far enough from the urban core that production wouldn't affect county operations. The base is equipped with a water tank for underwater filming and is next to the ocean, he said, making it a perfect backdrop for air and sea shots.

What's more, as many

telenovelas are currently being shot in areas of political unrest, Mr. Martinez said he thought production crews could benefit from filming where government is stable.

"We have the ability to do it here," he said. "We have the weather. We have the people who are able to do it, the expertise, the professionalism."

We want to hear from YOU!
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Orange squeeze: fewer bowl tickets sell after sales team grows

BY ZACHARY S. FAGENSON

Attendance of 65,453 at Monday night's Orange Bowl game at Sun Life Stadium, though less than the 67,000 of the 2010 game, met expectations of organizers, who plan to keep the expanded sales and marketing team brought aboard in mid-2009 to add sales.

Orange Bowl Committee Chief Operating Officer Michael Saks, in a recent Miami Today interview, estimated 65,000 to 70,000 of the stadium's 75,000 seats would be filled for this year's matchup between Virginia Tech and Stanford University.

The showing for the 2010 game, which ended a long streak of sellouts, prompted the committee early last summer to hire veteran sports marketer Dawson Hughes, who has worked for the San Diego Padres and Kansas City Royals, and a nine-

person team to boost ticket sales.

Last week Mr. Saks boasted "sales were up 8% over last year before the teams were selected. That's when sales happen in droves. Since we don't control what teams will be selected and how they will sell, for us it's really about the legacy and the brand."

Each university picked for the game is given 17,500 tickets, and the Orange Bowl Committee is unaware whether all were used.

Orange Bowl Spokesman Larry Wahl cited total ticket sales of 65,453.

"We've been saying all along we expected somewhere along that 65 number," he said. "You can't necessarily control who comes to the game. For the locals, it's a school night and it's a work night."

Created in 1935 to support an annual football game and surrounding events

called the Palm Festival, the Orange Bowl Committee has been transformed into a nonprofit volunteer organization that supports more than 15,000 youth football players across South Florida. It also funds scholarship programs and sponsors events year round that include everything from basketball to swimming.

Despite the game's lower attendance, the committee is "thrilled with the sales effort," Mr. Wahl added, and Mr. Hughes and his team will be staying on to boost the 2012 game.

"They came in late, to be honest," he pointed out. "They really didn't get up and running until August or so, and with a full year we'll see what they can do."

Mr. Hughes couldn't be reached. Mr. Wahl said budgeting and planning for next year's game events begins in February.

In a previous interview Mr. Hughes

described his approach as two-pronged, reaching out to locals and the business community. One of his initiatives was to slightly trim ticket prices to come in line with the current economic condition, which Mr. Wahl said was partly to blame for less-than-stellar sales.

Upper-level seats, Mr. Hughes previously noted, were going for \$65 apiece, "the cheapest they have been in a very long time."

An important element that the committee and Mr. Hughes worked to communicate is that the game and its surrounding events don't have a corporate owner and aim to give back to the community.

"We want to increase that visibility to really have the community understand this is an organization that gives back," Mr. Wahl said. "Hopefully, people see that kind of thing and they want to support us as well."

Commission frets \$45 million Jackson deal might net a loss

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Miami-Dade's commission is in the midst of what has become a year-long struggle to get Jackson Memorial Hospital back on sound financial footing, but a \$45 million procurement contract recently entered into by the Public Health Trust has left many commissioners debating whether savings may actually be coming down the pipeline.

Last month the Public Health Trust approved a \$45 million contract with MedAssets Inc., an Atlanta-based medical consulting firm, that would allow the hospital to bulk purchase medical supplies and work with consultants to change procurement practices.

While Alina Hudak, assistant county manager, said at a Dec 7 commission meeting that this arrangement would allow the



Carlos Gimenez asks to look at how other hospitals handle issue.

hospital to reengineer the way it considers purchasing agreements by allowing Jackson officials to make in-house purchasing decisions, many commissioners worried about how the partnership would affect the cash-strapped hospital.

Carlos Gimenez expressed concern that the costs associ-

ated with hiring an outside firm wouldn't result in county savings.

"In a \$45 million contract there's hope for savings, but I'm not sure that there's guarantees for savings," he said, adding that in the past the county has put millions toward consulting services, few of which have resulted in any financial gain.

In an effort to pinpoint how much the county could expect to save, Mr. Gimenez asked that the administration look into how the contract differs from those in place at private hospitals throughout Miami-Dade and discuss findings at the next commission meeting.

"I believe that most of the private hospitals here in this area have a common procurement platform," he said. "It seems to me that you could quantify savings pretty easily."



Sally Heyman says it sounds good but she hasn't seen a guarantee.

Commissioner Sally Heyman agreed that the county should consider what neighboring hospitals are doing when deciding how the trust should structure its group purchasing.

"I was genuinely concerned that we're paying \$45 million to hopefully recapture \$200-and-something million," she said.

"It sounds nice – spend a little and get a bigger return – but I haven't seen a contract that says it's going to guarantee it."

County Manager George Burgess said that as Jackson and the commission discuss ways to run the Public Health Trust and search for a new hospital president, officials must watch the hospital's finances closely. Cash on hand sits at \$70 million, which Mr. Burgess called "very, very low."

"Patients have increased, but the cash situation is something we just have to watch very, very carefully," he said. "There's a real possibility that we may be in a situation not dissimilar to last year. This is nothing formal that we've heard, but I wouldn't be surprised if there's some sort of cash flow assistance that may be needed. I don't know, but I wouldn't rule it out."

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Isaac Prilleltensky gears UM School of Education to add...

Isaac Prilleltensky, who heads the University of Miami's School of Education, hasn't always focused on the art of teaching. He spent much of his career dedicated to the mental health field.

His background is in psychology, and earning his doctorate took him on a whirlwind tour of the globe that started in Israel and culminated in Canada.

He worked as a school psychologist, but after a few years realized he could be more effective in preventing children's problems rather than trying to fix them.

His focus at the University of Miami is to ensure his students can teach future generations to find health in themselves, their immediate relationships and their work.

While the school of education's primary job is to turn out teachers, Mr. Prilleltensky said that it can't be the sole supply of educators for Miami-Dade public schools. Instead his "focus is to try to create a new generation of leaders who can work with families in poor communities so that when the kids come to school they are ready to learn," he said.

He's stretching the college's resources deep into the community, partnering with groups like the Children's Trust and the Early Learning Coalition to offer its research expertise to their daily work.

Mr. Prilleltensky discussed the school's work with the education and business community as well as its effort to develop new programs to meet education's ever-changing challenges on the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus with Miami Today reporter Zachary S. Fagenson.

Q: Tell me about your work as a psychologist.

A: When I finished my master's degree in Canada I worked for six years in school psychology. What I did as a school psychologist was consult with teachers and parents on learning, behavioral, academic problems that kids experience. I did a lot of assessments of kids, consultation with parents.

After six years I realized that school psychologists tend to come to the scene late. I understood that I could be more effective if I dedicated myself to preventing problems as opposed to trying to cure problems.

I turned to community psychology. Community psychologists identify risk factors – what might predict a problem in a child's life and what can we do to prevent it. We work with communities and organizations as opposed to working only with individuals. We understand that many of the problems kids face derive from environmental problems, what's happening in the schools, what's happening in your community.

Q: How did you decide to switch from the psychology field to education?

A: When I finished my Ph.D. I decided to become an academic because I enjoy writing. I started publishing, doing research. I was a professor from 1991 until 2006. I moved to Australia after nine years as professor in Canada. I lived in Australia for three years and then I moved to Nashville. I became chair of a doctorate program at Vanderbilt University. After you are a professor for so many years you want to try your hand at administration, and that's how I became



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Isaac Prilleltensky spent much of his career dedicated to mental health. The school of education he heads now partners with external groups throughout the community.

The Achiever

Isaac Prilleltensky

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Age: 51

Born: Cordova, Argentina

Education: Bar Ilan University
(bachelor's, psychology), Tel Aviv
University (master's, clinical child
psychology), University of Manitoba
(doctorate, psychology).

Personal Philosophy: I believe in the promotion of well-being – physical well-being, psychological well-being, interpersonal, occupational, community and financial well-being. I believe in identifying problems and anticipating issues.

Watch the interview

www.miamitodaynews.com

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a dean of education.

Q: What advantages come with having a psychology background and working in the education field?

A: Community psychologists work with people to achieve goals. I've been trained to work with groups to pursue a common vision. The work I had been doing in communities to improve the well-being of children and families is what I did as a school psychologist and as an academic in my applied research. These are skills that transfer to running an institution.

Universities are very democratic places; you can't get anything done unless you have some consensus from the individual

you are working with. I believe in building on faculty strengths.

Q: Do you still do any work in psychology?

A: Yes, I do research, writing and teaching. I teach an undergraduate course called psycho-social change and well-being. It's an introductory class to a new degree we started here called human and social development.

I have a research team. It's called Miami SPEC. SPEC is an acronym for Strength, Prevention, Empowerment and Community change. We work with different organizations in the community. Being an administrator is time consuming, but I'm still active in publishing.

Q: Who does the Miami SPEC team do?

A: We work with the Children's Trust, the Human Services Coalition, the Early Learning Coalition, Switchboard of Miami and Community Health of South Florida. These organizations partner with my research team to explore what they do that is strength based.

We train them every other week for three hours and we, the research team members, go out to their organizations and consult with them. We establish transformation teams. It's not just come read a book and see what you pick up. It's applying what we're talking about.

Q: In any of your experiences abroad have you noticed any educational formats that you'd like to implement in the states?

A: I lived in five countries. It's hard not to compare what works in other places.

I'm a great admirer of the Canadian educational system. In Canada there are very few private schools. Most families send their kids to public schools. Public schools are well-funded.

In Ontario they have been trying to improve the educational standing of the entire province. They do a lot of horizontal collaboration amongst schools. Schools that are doing better are adopting schools that are not doing so great. In this country sometimes we don't collaborate as much as we could. We are too into ranking school systems.

Q: Is this true of both primary and secondary schools?

A: The US operates primarily in el-

ementary, middle and high schools. There are ways to rank universities, which is useful to some extent. No ranking system is perfect.

This country rewards excellence better than other countries. If you happen to be really talented as an academic, you will do better in the US than in Australia or Canada.

Q: Is there any opportunity within the US for universities to collaborate horizontally?

A: In the US we collaborate with other universities. We have exchange programs with other schools. Structurally in the US [it's] pretty much two systems: private and public.

Q: What are your day-to-day responsibilities as dean?

A: The day usually consists of a combination of meetings with my folks who help me run the school, with external constituents. Fundraising is an important part of a dean's job, especially in a private university. I enjoy giving talks and spreading the word about the school of education, so I do a fair amount of outside speaking engagements, communication meetings. I also do research, teaching and writing.

Q: What are your short-term goals?

A: The school is organized around a vision of holistic well-being. We have a great department of teaching and learning. It ranks second in the country in terms of its research and scholarly productivity.

We promote physical well-being through the department of kinesiology and sports sciences and we have a department on educational and psychological studies. We need to do more to synergize the educational, physical and psychological.

We started the Center for Community and Educational Well-Being. That research center is helping us maintain an active partnership with 30 external organizations. We started the new undergraduate degree in human and social development. We started a new master's degree in community and social change.

We have a great counseling program that works with individuals [and] families, but we need to develop a program to work with the community. You have to think about institutionalizing an initiative that will outlast you.

Q: How does the school of education partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools?

A: We partner with [Miami-Dade County Public Schools] through training students and through research. Our teachers in training participate in about 50 schools throughout Miami-Dade, doing observations [and] associate teaching.

We have research programs to develop new curriculum. Together with Miami-Dade County Public Schools we developed a new curriculum called P-SELL, Promoting Science for English Language Learners.

Our professor Okhee Lee received a variety of grants from several funding sources to develop a curriculum that eventually became well-documented as improving the FCAT of kids. We have another program of research to promote math. Our professors do a great deal of



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...leaders working to get kids in poor families ready to learn

work in the schools, and we really value the cooperation of [the public schools].

Q: What are your long-term goals?

A: I would like to maintain and improve our teaching programs. Many of our graduates become teachers of the year in Miami-Dade County, so we have a small but high-quality teaching program. I would like to solidify the new programs I just mentioned. I would like to make sure we help schools through community-based approaches.

In the schools you have to work with families, you have to work with the YMCA, you have to work with churches. We do a lot of that, and I want to help families after school hours.

In Coconut Grove we have a program called the Kulula Project. Our students mentor [area youth], and we provide parenting.

In Liberty City we have Project HOPE with Pastor [Anthony] Dawkins. We help about 125 kids with physical activity, with academic subjects, interpersonal problem solving.

I want to grow and solidify community involvement in schools.

Q: The school of education has 54 faculty members. Where does it stand in terms of its annual budget and student enrollment, and where would you like to be in future years?

A: It is the city's challenge for a private university to become a big supplier of teachers in the fourth-largest district in the country. This is not our goal. We're not built to do that. We provide research expertise. You have to build on your strengths and be realistic about how many teachers you can produce.

We think of Miami-Dade County Public Schools as our partners in growing the science of teaching. There are things you claim, things you cannot claim. This is what we do.

Q: Does the school of education partner with other schools in the university?

A: Students in the teaching and learning program take a second major in various schools within the university. If you're training to become a secondary

school teacher, you need to have a teachable subject. You need to study math in [the college of] arts and sciences; you need to study history or biology.

We do a great deal of research with other schools. I'm working on a research project to develop a computerized wellness coach that will help you keep up with your physical [and] emotional health. [We're] partnering with the school of communication, because they have a great filmmaking team. [We're] partnering with computer scientists in arts and sciences.

Q: Is there anything going on with the Miller School of Medicine?

A: We're partnering two of our departments, kinesiology and sports sciences and educational and physiological studies. We have experts studying the prevention of obesity. The chair of my department of kinesiology, Arlette Perry – she's heavily involved with research projects going on in the Miller School of Medicine.

We have a doctorate program in counseling psychology. Many of our doctors and students do their research and applied work in psychiatry, in the Center for Family Studies.

This is one of the advantages of this university. We have 11 schools and colleges in a relatively small campus. We can do a lot of interaction. It's not rare to find one of my professors writing a grant with the school of engineering. There are all kinds of collaborations across the schools.

Q: How do these partnerships develop?

A: You have to understand the source of a problem. We do the basic science and translate that science into improving people's health. The process is long and sometimes costly, but the alternatives are even more expensive.

We often talk about return on investment. Let's say you're talking to families in high-poverty areas. You have to send teachers, you have to send psychologists, experts, but for every dollar invested you get up to \$18 in return. Why? The kids don't become involved with the juvenile delinquency system. They don't drop out

of school, they don't require special education systems, they pay more taxes. An investment in health and education can [mean] big returns for society at large.

Q: How do you communicate with the local business community?

A: We are active in the chamber of commerce. I'm a member of the board of the Children's Trust. Many business leaders participate in the board, so it gives me an opportunity to say, 'What can we do together to facilitate educational development?'

We work closely with Early Learning Coalition. They were part of the Miami SPEC project. The Children's Trust is heavily invested in Quality Counts, a program to improve the daycare and the childcare facilities for young infants.

Q: Do you get any feedback from these organizations?

A: Often I hear that students are not prepared to take jobs in the industry and that major corporations are not well-represented in Miami. Because of the geographical region we should be attracting more business to Miami.

Often people worry because of the educational level of the population that they're not going to find sufficiently qualified employees. What worries me is the dropout rates, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools improved its graduation rate, which is great for everybody. We need more graduates and we need them better prepared.

One worry that I hear is that students are sometimes not ready to take on difficult courses in universities. They need a lot of remedial math, remedial English.

Q: How do you overcome these issues?

A: This is where we partner with Early Learning Coalition, The Children's Trust. We're not going to supply a big number of teachers in the community, but what we can do is to influence the not-for-profit community, which is large.

The Children's Trust funds \$100 million worth of programs every year, the United Way another \$40 million. Our focus is to create a new generation of

leaders who can work with families in poor communities so that when the kids come to school they are ready to learn.

When kids are not read [to], when kids are exposed to violence, when there are stressors within your family environment – that has a huge impact. If kids do not come ready to learn to school you are already late to remediate the problem. You have to start early.

Q: Can you tell us about the Center for Community and Educational Well-Being?

A: We received a donation of half a million dollars from the Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation. They helped us start a research center whose mission is to match university resources to community needs.

My associate dean of research is Etiony Aldarondo. He's the director of the research center and his job is to be a matchmaker between the needs and interests of our researchers and the needs and interests of community organizations.

We partner with the YMCA, the Human Services Coalition, the Coalition for Immigrant Children. I can name 30 or more organizations that come to the school of education looking for a partnership. We're reaching out.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I study languages. I'm fluent in Spanish, Hebrew and English and I study Italian and Portuguese. I have computer programs that, in the morning before I come to work, I put [on] my laptop and you can hear me talking Italian or talking Portuguese.

I exercise every day. Before I work I have an hour of jogging, running, weights. I like reading and writing.

Q: Do you have family here?

A: My greatest source of pride. My wife, Ora Prilleltsky, [is a] professor in the School of Education. She directs our program in human and social development. We have one son, Matan Prilleltsky. He's a national chess master and a graduate student in New York. He's studying special education and elementary education.



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A new mayor must assess county staffing, pay and efficacy

As Miami-Dade commissioners tip-toe through a minefield of recall elections, we need to step quickly past political maneuvers and focus on salutary long-term impact.

Mayor Carlos Alvarez is likely to be deposed before his term ends. His replacement will be the first mayor to manage from day one county staff and services.

That's the key legacy of the strong-mayor system Mr. Alvarez pushed into the charter. It means the county mayor is not only political leader and spokesperson but also administrator, two vastly different and – before Mr. Alvarez – separate jobs.

In that administrative role, a mayor should assess the number, pay levels and efficacy of staff and determine how to save the most money with least impact on vital services.

Assessment is far harder than it should be, given that the current mayor's chief aide, County Manager George Burgess, is a superb manipulator of data to serve an agenda.

Today, two outside perceptions of county staffing conflict. One is of a bureaucracy growing far faster than private enterprise, needing cutting in great swaths. The other is of a staff decimated yearly by budget trims.



Michael Lewis

Facts cast doubt on both perceptions. Decimation didn't occur. The county's last budget cut 941 positions, but in a staff where people in eliminated jobs are rapidly shuffled to vacant or new posts, far fewer than 941 lost jobs.

On the other hand, jobs in local government countywide contracted with the economy. As the big local government, Miami-Dade County is key.

In fact, government employee growth in Miami-Dade closely parallels that of the county economy as a whole.

In the past 20 years, November 1990 to November 2010, governments in the county grew from 124,400 filled jobs to 154,500, up 24.2%. At the same time, employment countywide grew from 899,629 jobs to 1,124,451, up 25%.

Job growth in private and public sectors is comparable. It's vital to isolate how county government fits into that pattern.

How about job decline in the downturn?

Government jobs countywide peaked at 158,500 in December 2007 and since have fallen 4,000, or 2.5%. But countywide employment peaked at 1,149,020 in November 2007 and since has fallen 24,569 jobs, 2.1%. Again, comparable.

So public sector jobs have risen and fallen right in line with the private sector.

But how about pay? After all, Mayor Alvarez gave out double-digit raises to confidants amidst a recession and county hall paychecks rose.

It's difficult to track county pay figures and even harder to be confident of them, given recent manipulation when tax bills rose in double digits in what the mayor and manager touted as a no-tax-increase budget.

But nationally in 2010, pay in government rose more slowly than in business, a shock given pay cuts in many companies.

Government jobs do average higher pay than similar roles in business, but the gap narrowed a hair in 2010, a reverse from private years. In the third quarter, state and local employees' wages and benefits in the US rose 1.7% for a year while those in private industries rose 2%.

A new mayor should demand hard data on whether county government pay growth exceeds the national 1.7%.

Far more important to assess than pay levels is productivity. Maintaining ratios between county and private jobs means little if county employment was too high or unproductive to begin with.

No figures detail how much work county employees do or how well they do it, though people who go to county offices tell of clerks seeming to do little but chat as the public waits.

Would we find the same in a business as employers seek to trim expenses? It's doubtful.

The most appalling account, however, comes not from Miami-Dade but from France's regional government system, where one Aurélie Boulet landed a dream job after six years of college.

For a fulltime wage, she recounted recently, her actual work was five to 12 hours per month, much unrelated to state business. She was given one week's pay to change the typeface of a computerized report, a job that took 25 seconds. End of a week's work.

Ms. Boulet went public with the misuse of tax money in a system where non-jobs are the norm, not the exception.

Miami-Dade's new mayor, as administrator, may not find similar waste but must study with an open mind whether the public gets its money's worth.

Such efficiencies, vital now, shouldn't end with an economic upturn, because the county, like all local governments, faces rising liabilities from pensions, retiree healthcare and long-term debt that include \$3 billion for a baseball stadium Mayor Alvarez pushed through as he raised staff wages.

The rising-liability chickens won't come home to roost for Mr. Alvarez even should he manage to avert a recall. But they will bedevil taxpayers of the future.

A mayor, as both county leader and administrator, must come to grips with those future liabilities. A good start is to probe staffing, pay and efficacy.

The mayor mightn't find a payroll full of Aurélie Boulet jobs, but a look at the close associates of Mayor Alvarez would be a valid start.

Government jobs shouldn't be sinecures. After a recall, look closely at key employees, salute the best and can the rest.

State and local governments relatively sheltered from cuts

Except for those on Social Security and Medicare, government for most middle-class Americans consists mainly of schools, police, fire protection, roads and ambulance service. It's states and localities. How are they faring in the present economy?

Conventional wisdom holds that they've been crushed by dramatic declines in tax revenues and have resorted to deep cuts in public services. Well, not exactly.

To be sure, there are cases of severe cuts. Newark recently dismissed 13% of its police force. For two straight years, the University of California has raised tuition sharply for its 220,000 students to help offset reductions in state aid: a 32% increase adopted in 2009 and another 8% increase this year. Hawaii shortened its 2009-10 school year by 17 days.

But these and other similar cases, though real, exaggerate the situation.

Overall, national changes have been modest. In 2008, state and local spending totaled \$2.19 trillion. It was almost identical in 2009 and, in the first three quarters of 2010, is running at an annual rate of \$2.23 trillion.

Employment tells the same story. State government jobs peaked in August 2008 at 5.2 million and dropped about 1% to a low of 5.15 million in mid-2009; at last count, they were

5.18 million.

Somewhat larger losses for local governments – which employ most teachers, police and firefighters – are still mounting. Since a high of 14.6 million, also in August 2008, their jobs have dropped 360,000 or 2.5%.

True, state and local governments were expanding before the recession. Spending typically rose about \$100 billion a year and employment, 100,000 to 200,000. Against those routine increases, the recent stability presents more of a contrast.

Still, compared with many sectors that have suffered grievously from the slump – housing, automobiles, finance – state and local governments have been relatively sheltered.

One reason is President Obama's much-maligned "stimulus" packages. Since 2009, they have provided about \$158 billion to states, estimates the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank and advocacy group. As these transfers dwindle, state tax revenues are reviving with the economy.

Local governments may be less lucky. They rely on property taxes for about a third of their revenues, and because property appraisals are done every few years, "the decline in house prices implies that collections will probably fall in the coming years," concludes a new Congressional Budget Office study.

All in all, the present squeeze on states and localities is overstated. The truly bad news lies in the future with massive retiree pension and health benefits that haven't been prefunded.

How big are the shortfalls? All estimates are huge, though they vary depending on technical assumptions and coverage.

Consider. The Pew Center on the States estimates \$1 trillion of underfunding for the pensions and health benefits of states.

Economists Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester and Joshua Rauh of Northwestern University have higher totals for pensions alone; their gaps are about \$3 trillion for states and almost \$600 billion for localities.

Underfunded health benefits for states and localities together are reckoned by different studies at \$500 billion to \$1.5 trillion, report economists Robert Clark and Melinda Morrill of North Carolina State University.

Whatever the ultimate costs, they threaten future levels of public services. The generous benefits encourage workers to retire in their late 50s or early 60s after 25 years of service. The health benefits typically provide coverage until retirees qualify for Medicare at 65.

To pay for unfunded benefits, either government services must be cut or taxes raised.

How much is (again) unclear. Even low estimates by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College indicate that annual pension payments for some states could roughly double. In Illinois, they could go from 4.5% of spending to 8.7%. Covering retiree health benefits would add to that.

So support for schools, police, roads and other state and local activities is undermined by careless – or corrupt –

bargains between politicians and their public-worker unions. Promises of generous future retirement benefits were expedient contract sweeteners, with most costs conveniently deferred. Even when pension contributions were supposed to be made, they were often reduced or postponed when budgets were tight.

If these arrangements look familiar, they should. The US auto industry adopted the same model; the costs helped bankrupt General Motors and Chrysler.

What states and localities can do about this is limited. Pension promises to existing employees are probably legally inviolate. Retiree health benefits are apparently less so and should be reduced or eliminated to limit incentives for early retirement.

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South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee gears up for 2015 bid

By JACQUELYN WEINER

Every year, the National Football League's 32 team owners gather and vote on which lucky location will next host a Super Bowl.

And whenever invited, the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee is right there with them, giving its best pitch to lure the highly lucrative event.

While South Florida may not have the newest, shiniest stadium, what's outside its gates has won the owners over ten times – the record for most Super Bowls hosted, said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee.

"The NFL takes a look at everything," Mr. Barreto said. "When you have the things that we have to offer, there's just so much to complement the game."

Among South Florida's selling points, he said: three international airports, 20 fixed-base operators for private planes and some 130,000 hotel rooms at widely ranging price points.

The next game on the table is 2015, and the committee's already gearing up to win.

Work is underway on the 2015 bid book, which addresses every request from the National Football League's increasing demands.

The host committee is also in the process of interviewing companies to handle its presentation, Mr. Barreto said.

Each area in the running gives a 15-minute presentation to the owners before the vote, coupled with detailed bid books.

"We're going to get as creative as possible," Mr. Barreto said.

The bid book is put together by host committee staff and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, he said, which hired an independent consultant to handle the 2014 bid book.

The 2014 Super Bowl – the most recently assigned – went to New York/New Jersey.

The region beat out Tampa and South Florida.

Mr. Barreto speculated that Dallas, Tampa and Indianapolis will try for the 2015 game.

Locations must be invited by the football league to bid, Mr. Barreto said.

During the owners' meeting, pitches are heard and the owners hold rounds of voting until the winner is selected.

But for some, their minds are made up well ahead of time.

Mr. Barreto likened the advanced commitments of owners to lobbyists paying visits to legislators, urging them to vote a certain way.

"Some of this is very political," he said.

So how does South Florida get in on the action, securing pledged votes?

Mr. Barreto said many of the owners visit South Florida each year when their teams take on the Miami Dolphins, but other than that, "We don't want to reveal all our secrets."

While coaxing might help in some cases, one thing it won't change is South Florida's Sun

Life Stadium in Miami Gardens.

While the stadium, which broke ground in 1985, was once a big lure, "that state-of-the-art stadium today is 25 years old," Mr. Barreto said. "It's tough for us to compete against a billion-dollar stadium."

Sun Life is missing many of the components of newer stadiums, such as a retractable roof and lighting for high-definition television.

In its bid, the host committee must offer extra funds to compensate for the lacking lights, Mr. Barreto said.

South Florida has been given a "heads-up" that changes are needed to keep Super Bowls coming into the future, he said.

As for the host committee's role in this, Mr. Barreto said it is encouraging the Miami Dolphins to "come up with a plan" to fund stadium improvements.

"We need to stay competitive," he said.

Proposed improvements expected to cost upwards of \$200 million include a translucent roof to shield spectators and high-definition lighting.

Public money is a potential funding source.

However, government dollars for a sports facility could be a tough sell following the Florida Marlins' \$515 million stadium, which is being paid for with \$347.5 million in county funds, \$154 million from the Marlins – including \$35 million financed through county bonds – and \$13.5 million plus parking-construction costs from the City of Miami.

Still, the stadium isn't the sole challenge in attracting future Super Bowls.

Every year, the requirements to bid for a Super Bowl are "getting steeper and steeper."

"The NFL has gotten a lot more sophisticated with their proposal requirements," he said.

These changing requests are evidenced in South Florida's bid books over the years, expanding from a thin, white binder with yellowing pages from 1991 to the thick, turf-green 2014 bid pack with a football-field motif.

Mike Zimmer, president of the host committee, said its bid book has practically doubled in size in recent years.

Among the league's increasingly nitpicky desires, Mr. Zimmer pointed to a rule that hundreds of fresh towels be provided to players – paid for by the host.

A big part of formulating the many components of the bid, he said, has become cost analysis.

Mr. Barreto, who has been active in South Florida Super Bowl bids since 1989, said the financial commitment requested by the football league has changed drastically.

It's gone from the sponsoring location paying very little on game day to covering all game day expenses, he said.

With the league's ever-growing list of wants, Mr. Barreto said, it could come to the point where the committee must ask "Is it worth the money, time and effort?"

But for now, he said, it is –



Photo by Maxine Usdan

Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, and Mike Zimmer, the committee's president, are putting plans in motion for the 2015 Super Bowl bid, but both are unsure if the 25-year-old Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens can compete against newer facilities in other cities.

'It's tough for us to compete against a billion-dollar stadium.'

Rodney Barreto

without a question.

Hosting a Super Bowl attracts throngs of visitors, who pump money into the local economy through hotel stays, dining out and purchases.

According to a study that the host committee commissioned on the 2010 South Florida Super Bowl, the game had a paid attendance of 73,602.

Mr. Barreto said it's estimated that another 50,000 visited with no intention of going to the game.

Out-of-town visitors for the 2010 Super Bowl spent an average on \$947.41 per day on "accommodations, meals/beverages, local transportation, entertainment/recreation, merchandise and other miscellaneous retail," according to the study.

These expenses covered 2.36 persons daily, according to the study.

Visitors surveyed stayed an average 3.12 nights in South Florida, with 89.5% citing the Super Bowl as their main reason for visiting.

In addition, the average household income of visitors surveyed was \$220,323.

And that's not to mention the value of South Florida's exposure to every Super Bowl television viewer.

The 2010 Super Bowl "captured 1.53 million household impressions," according to the study, "surpassing the 1983 finale of 'M*A*S*H' to become the most-watched program in US television history."

"You cannot put a price tag on the amount of [public relations] that comes from a Super Bowl," Mr. Barreto said. "You can't buy that."

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Martinez revamps county committees and names new chairs



Photo by Maxine Usdan

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Miami-Dade's newly appointed commission chair is not new to the political rodeo, but Joe Martinez has wasted no time making his mark. Fewer than three days after taking over, the commissioner has appointed committee chairs, revamping the way the groups are organized in the process.

In an official report on Tuesday, Mr. Martinez said he decided to reduce committees to six, as he felt the number was manageable and would give each commissioner opportunity to serve as chair or vice chair.

"I have given great thought to the background, experience and areas of interest of each of my colleagues when selecting the committee assignments," he wrote. "I am certain that each committee member will put the needs of the residents of Miami-Dade County first and strive to attain the goals of each of these committees."

Commission Chairman Joe Martinez wasted no time making changes.

Standing Committee Schedule

Regional Transportation	Monday at 9:30 A.M.
Recreation & Cultural Affairs	Monday at 2:00 P.M.
Public Safety & Healthcare Administration	Tuesday at 9:30 A.M.
Internal Management & Fiscal Responsibility	Tuesday at 2:00 P.M.
Economic Development & Social Services	Wednesday at 9:30 A.M.
Infrastructure & Land Use	Wednesday at 2:00 P.M.

The Regional Transportation Committee will work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, the Citizens Independent Transportation Trust, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation to oversee Miami-Dade's transportation system. Bruno Barreiro is to serve as chair and Carlos Gimenez vice chair. Audrey Edmonson, Dennis Moss, Sally Heyman and Javier Souto are committee members.

The Recreation and Cultural

Affairs Committee will work with the Miami-Dade Sports Commission, Vizcaya Trust, the Marlins Baseball Facility oversight group, the Museum Operations and Development oversight group, the Miami Museum of Science, the Miami Art Museum and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts to oversee major recreation and cultural capital projects. Mr. Souto will be chair and Mr. Moss as vice chair. Jean Monestime, Mr. Gimenez, Ms. Heyman and Rebeca Sosa are committee members.

The Public Safety and Healthcare Administration Committee will work with the Public Health Trust, the Children's Trust and the Youth Crime Task Force to ensure that residents receive life and safety services while providing oversight to all matters pertaining to Jackson Memorial Hospital. Jose "Pepe" Diaz will be chair and Ms. Heyman vice chair. Mr. Souto, Barbara Jordan, Lynda Bell and Ms. Edmonson are committee members.

The Internal Management and Fiscal Responsibility Committee will work with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, the Miami-Dade legislative delegation, the Office of the Inspector General, community redevelopment agencies, the Office of the Property Appraiser, Miami-Dade Public Schools, the Eleventh Judicial District and the Clerk of Courts. Ms. Bell will be chair and Ms. Edmonson vice chair. Natasha Seijas, Mr. Gimenez, Mr. Diaz and Ms. Jordan are members.

The Economic Development and Social Services Committee will work with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Tourist Development Council, South Florida Workforce, the Beacon Council, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau and the City of Miami's Downtown Development Authority to promote private/public partnerships while bringing business to Miami-Dade County. Ms. Sosa will be chair and Mr. Monestime as vice chair. Mr. Barreiro, Ms. Seijas, Ms. Bell and Mr. Moss are members.

The Infrastructure and Land Use Committee will work with the Building Better Communities Bond Program Citizens Advisory Committee, the South Florida Water Management District, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Community Image Advisory Board and the Miami River Commission to promote sustainable growth while overseeing environmental protection issues. Ms. Seijas will be chair and Ms. Jordan vice chair. Ms. Sosa, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Monestime and Mr. Barreiro are members.

Outlook January 20 2011

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MIAMI TODAY



3 December chills hit farmers with \$54 million crop damage

BY ASHLEY D. TORRES

With an estimated \$54 million in crop damage following three December cold snaps, Miami-Dade County farmers are salvaging fields and replanting as they await word on a federal agricultural disaster declaration.

On Dec. 30, Florida's then-Gov. Charlie Crist requested an agricultural disaster declaration from US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for multiple counties, including Miami-Dade, which is second in the state and 18th in the nation for agriculture production.

If granted the declaration, farmers would be eligible for low-interest emergency loans to assist with replanting damaged crops, said Charles LaPradd, the county's agricultural manager. The loans are similar to those provided to businesses by the Federal Emergency Management Agency during disasters.

In the meantime, South Dade farmers — who enjoy long agricultural seasons — replant and maintain surviving crops, and those with crop insurance or other

coverage file claims.

The county's tender crops, which are fragile and easily susceptible to damage such as green beans, were the hardest hit by the December cold. As the nation's green bean capital, South Dade's green bean crops, Mr. LaPradd said, were hard hit, as were squash, papaya, boniato and bananas. In addition, the county's sweet corn crops were about 50% affected.

The estimated \$54 million in December crop damage, Mr. LaPradd said, was determined by the county, US agriculture department representatives and members of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension in South Dade, who visit fields and conduct disaster assessments.

The first two cold snaps, Dec. 7-8 and Dec. 14-15, resulted in roughly \$51 million in damages. The third cold front, Dec. 27-28, brought the disaster total to \$54 million.

Low temperatures for Homestead during the three cold snaps, excluding wind chill, ranged from 34 to 41 degrees Fahrenheit, according to The Weather

Channel online. However, many areas did dip below freezing for an extended time during the coldest days Dec. 14-15, Mr. LaPradd said.

"This cold snap was very close," said Larry Dunagan, Dade County Farm Bureau's president and Dunagan and Son Farms owner. "Another degree or two" would have been severe.

To minimize crop damage, many farmers irrigate fields to create a blanket of water that acts as an insulator.

Nonetheless, Mr. Dunagan, who is the county's only pull bean farmer, said some crops were damaged despite watering fields two to three days before the cold.

"I'm very hopeful that winter is over," Mr. Dunagan said, "and I'm planting and going on, and that's what farmers do."

The University of Florida agriculture extension office operates four Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations to provide up-to-date weather information for local farmers. The stations, which were originally funded by growers and are now allocated funds in the office's operating budget, help farm-

ers assess risk and make educated decisions on whether to irrigate crops, which can become costly because each irrigation engine uses up to seven gallons of gasoline an hour.

"I hope we don't have any more... sleepless nights for farmers and for ourselves who are trying to help them," said Teresa Olczyk, director of the university's South Dade extension office.

The cold snaps and crop damage can also impact grocery store prices. Although higher prices translate into more revenue for local farmers, Mr. Dunagan said, the situation is "bittersweet" because rising costs can hurt farmers if consumers are discouraged from purchasing higher-priced fruits and vegetables.

Farmers, he noted, have no say in grocery store pricing.

"I'm hoping that December wasn't a pattern being formed," Mr. Dunagan added, "and that January and February won't be as bad."

Details: miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu

6-business entertainment hub to open in Macy's ground floor

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

Six restaurant and entertainment venues are slated to open by June in 20,000 square feet of street-level retail space in downtown Miami, the product of a partnership between mega-retailer Macy's and a Miami-based realty firm to transform the Central Business District into a destination that can draw more nighttime traffic.

Bill Fuller and Martin Pinilla II, co-founders and managing partners of Barlington Group in 2004.

Larry Gautier, regional vice president of Keyes Co., worked with Macy's on finding the right team to lease the space. He's been working with Macy's for eight years on its short- and long-term plans for excess space at the downtown store at 22 E Flagler St.

The department store owns two buildings on the east and west corners of South Miami Avenue and Flagler Street that connect by an elevated walkway.

"We are pleased about the

new plan and look forward to the energy and excitement it will bring to the area," said Melissa Goff, a spokeswoman for Macy's Southeast region, via e-mail.

This day-and-night culinary and entertainment complex planned in the west building is to include several restaurants, bars and even a live jazz and blues venue, said Mr. Pinilla, who along with Mr. Fuller formed Barlington Group in 2004.

He said he couldn't announce tenants until all the leases are signed but described them as "unique and dynamic."

All the tenants are new to the Miami-Dade market, Mr. Gautier added.

"All of the tenants that are going to be on board have committed to each of the spaces and each of the groups have been hand-selected," Mr. Pinilla said. They've been "sort of curated to create the proper synergy. Although only a couple of them have executed leases, the rest are in the final stages of getting the leases executed."

An architect has also been hired to design a new façade to



Macy's has had excess space in its downtown site for eight years.

rejuvenate the building's appearance, Mr. Fuller said, and add lighting and other attractive elements at par with Miami's nightlife.

"We hope to create more activity on the street and Macy's hopes it will help increase store traffic and increase synergy among businesses in that core," he said.

All the venues are to face either Southwest First Street, South Miami Avenue or Flagler Street, Mr. Pinilla noted.

The team said it's scheduled to formally present the project at the Jan. 13 City of Miami commission meeting to familiarize elected officials and the community with the full scope of the plans.

Macy's and downtown have clashed in recent years.

In February 2009, the national retailer announced a companywide reorganization that called for reducing personnel in its downtown Miami headquarters by cutting 600 locally-based jobs and leaving a large void to fill at the property.

In late 2006, Macy's complained to the Downtown Development Authority and the city about downtown's appearance and safety issues, raising concerns that the national retailer could leave the urban core.

This new deal also comes when Macy's tenant in the east building, Florida International University, has found a new home.

After considering multiple bids for relocation of its downtown business school hub, the university awarded the lease, estimated at 30,000 square feet,

■ Aim is to create regional magnet at west side of downtown, pg. 19

to twin-tower 1101 Brickell Ave.

After years of leasing at Macy's, the school opted to move to Brickell Avenue, joining other universities with a presence on Miami's Financial District.

With this new project, Mr. Gautier said the goal is to add restaurant and entertainment tenants that can bring a "wow factor" to downtown, appealing to its growing condo community and visitor industry, which includes tourists and cruise passengers and crews.

The team seeks to create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly destination with sidewalk seating like Brickell's Mary Brickell Village, Mr. Gautier said, while "creating something not present in Miami-Dade right now."

Once all the leases get inked, Mr. Fuller said, build-out is to begin right away, as the goal is to complete the renovation within four to six months.

"By then," he said, "we should see the beginning of a whole new movement for this area of downtown."



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City lacks fallback plan to repay \$50 million port tunnel loan

BY JACQUELYN WEINER

Miami's port tunnel bond issue could be delayed up to two years awaiting court validation. But if payment on the \$50 million two-year loan for interim cash comes due before the actual bond sale, there's no backup plan.

The loan – to be repaid with Omni Community Redevelopment Agency funds – is the City of Miami's contribution to Port of Miami Tunnel construction.

The twin tunnels are to link Miami's seaport on Dodge Island with Watson Island, aiming to remove truck traffic from the heart of downtown.

The estimated \$915 million project is to be funded with \$50 million from the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, \$402.5 million from Miami-Dade County and the rest from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The bond sale for Miami's share – the Omni Community Redevelopment Agency's first bond issue – has been delayed since November and could take up to two years more for court validation. To get cash flowing in the interim, Miami commissioners last month approved a two-year loan for the funds.

The Wachovia/Wells Fargo loan is to be repaid with \$5 million plus interest in one year and \$45 million plus interest after two years. The plan is to have the Community Redevelopment Agency front the first payment if needed and draw on funds from the bond sale for the second.

Yet asked by Miami Today how the agency could pay off a \$50 million loan if the bond sale doesn't occur in time, Executive Director Pieter Bockweg responded multiple times the issue is "premature."

"Having had numerous conversations with the City of Miami [chief financial officer], we've been assured that is not something that needs to be considered," he said.

Mr. Bockweg added that he has been "assured" the bond sale will occur before the second \$45 million payment is due.

"That is not something that needs to be contemplated," he said.

City Chief Financial Officer Larry Spring did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

As for the \$5 million payment due in one year – if the payment needs to be made before a bond



Pieter Bockweg: Finding backup payment funds "is not something that needs to be contemplated."

sale – Mr. Bockweg said he hopes to not eliminate any planned projects.

"We'll try to make sure that projects come under budget," he said.

If project funds need to be touched, "I would have to take a look at how much is allocated for each project."

For now, the agency is counting on all planned projects moving forward, Mr. Bockweg said, adding that it would be premature to consider which type could be affected.

"Our main focus is to move forward with the bond validation if need be," he said.

Miami commissioners approved the two-year loan last month after hearing that courts

would have to validate the already-delayed bonds sale to finance the Omni Community Redevelopment Agency's \$50 million funding for the tunnel project.

The agency had hoped to avoid validating its first bond issue by compiling enough documents to sufficiently detail agency history.

Despite these efforts, the city's attorneys found that the bonds "should be validated by the courts given the multiple legislative changes to the [redevelopment] District over the years," then-Manager Carlos Migoya wrote in a memorandum.

Mr. Spring told commissioners at the December commission meeting it could take another six to nine months to complete the validation.

And it could be longer than that: Mr. Migoya's memorandum puts the wait at six months to two years, "depending on challenges, if any are made."

Also influencing the decision to opt for a loan: The alternative – five-year term bonds – included language requiring 30-day payment in full of debt in the case of certain "defaults."

Rating agency Standard & Poor's expressed a "major is-

sue" with the stipulation, which differs under the two-year loan.

The loan's terms allow for 180-day payment of all debt in the event of a non-financial default compared to the much tighter 30-day language present in the term bonds.

Ignoring Standard & Poor's concerns could have resulted in a ratings downgrade, which would raise interest rates on the bonds.

The move will also save money overall, Mr. Spring said, saving 200 basis points in interest, amounting to "just shy of \$2 million over the two-year period."

Neither term bonds nor the loan would have been necessary had the bond sale occurred on schedule. But because it was delayed while staff worked to gather documents on the redevelopment agency's history, the letter of credit – which guarantees payment – on the bond sale crept toward January expiration.

The Florida Department of Transportation, charged with managing the project, requires Miami to carry a \$50 million letter of credit on the funds.

The letter was extended in October and couldn't be extended further.

Martinez plans focus on senior citizens as commission chair

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS

Miami-Dade Commission Chair Joe Martinez says he's been a long-standing advocate for the rights of senior citizens, a role he hopes to expand during his just-begun chairmanship.

During his first chair term

from 2004 to 2006, Mr. Martinez said, he worked to improve the quality of life for senior citizens. This term he plans to push the projects he's been advocating down the legislative pipeline in hopes they'll quickly come to fruition.

Mr. Martinez and Little Ha-

vana Activities and Nutrition Centers have worked for more than six years to get funding for a West Kendall senior center. With his help the activities and nutrition facility secured land needed to build the Dr. Olga Maria Martinez Senior Center, as well as \$1.5 million in general obligation bonds and commu-

nity development block grants. Little Havana also received a \$2 million grant from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Senior Capital Outlay Program in 2008.

The facility, near Kendall Drive and Southwest 152nd Avenue, is to serve as a day care for about 50 elderly persons suffering the effects of Alzheimer's, stroke or other illnesses. The center, which broke ground in September and should be complete by July, is to provide hot meals, preventive health education classes, health screenings and social services to nearly 150 seniors.

In addition to the West Kendall facility, Mr. Martinez has pushed to develop, construct and expand the Gran Via affordable housing complex for the elderly. After five years of snags and setbacks, the commission approved Dec. 7 a resolution directing County Manager George Burgess to list the complex as eligible to receive funding from the next series of general obligation bond sales.

While construction has yet to begin, Mr. Martinez said that he hopes to get the project moving during his time as chair.

"These are the things we have to continue to expand on," Mr. Martinez said. "What I started last time [as chair], I want to see finished this time."

In addition to the senior centers, Mr. Martinez said he plans to continue to fight for state-wide tax breaks for the elderly.

In 2002, he sponsored a resolution urging the Legislature to propose a constitutional amend-

ment that would freeze tax assessments for senior citizens receiving homestead exemptions.

The state's 1995 Save Our Homes exemption caps yearly increases in assessed values on properties receiving homestead tax exemptions at 3% or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. While the 2010 Consumer Price Index increased 2.7%, for the first time in many years property market values have been declining.

As Save Our Homes requires appraisers to raise assessed property values until they reach market values, according to county documents this year 251,000 county seniors saw property tax bills rise despite the market value drop.

When a home is sold, however, taxes for the new owner are calculated based on the full market value of the property. The assessed value is adjusted to meet the current market value, possibly doubling or tripling taxes depending on how long the previous owner held the property. The resulting tax hike has made it difficult for seniors to sell their homes.

While residents 65 and older now can receive an additional homestead exemption on property tax bills if their annual income is less than \$25,780, according to county documents, many senior citizens' income exceeds this amount.

Mr. Martinez said he plans to make securing exemptions for seniors a legislative focus throughout his chairmanship.

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The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce presents a look at South Florida's business prospects for the New Year. **Florida's Governor** opens the half-day Summit, **U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan** serves as luncheon speaker, and **JPMorgan Chase Senior Economist Jim Glassman** provides an overview of the economy. South Florida experts will participate in key industry panels: *automotive sales, banking, healthcare, international trade, real estate, retail, technology, and travel/tourism.*

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Long list of key events, major meetings equals record year

By Ashley D. Torres

As 2011 begins, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau prepares for a record year of events, meetings and promotional campaigns, which are expected to bring millions to the local economy.

One of the big 2011 milestones is to be the Jan. 28 opening of the New World Symphony's Frank Gehry-designed campus. The \$225 million facility across from the Miami Beach Convention Center is to include a façade projection wall showing performances under the stars.

"This community," said William D. Talbert III, the convention bureau's president, "always starts the year off fast."

The ING Miami Marathon and Half Marathon return Jan. 30, challenging local and foreign runners to hit the pavement through the 13.1-mile or 26.2-mile courses, which travel through areas such as Coconut Grove, Downtown and Miami Beach. The marathons, Mr. Talbert said, conservatively gen-

erate a local economic impact of \$5 million.

March is to bring the return of the World Golf Championship to the TPC Blue Monster at Doral and the Sony Ericsson Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Center. The events, March 7-13 and March 21-April 3 respectively, have typically fallen on the same dates, Mr. Talbert said. However, with differing dates, the events can continue entertaining locals and bringing in tourists for a longer period, which benefits the local economy.

Other March events include Ultra Music Festival, the Miami Beach International Fashion Week and the Calle Ocho festival.

Depending upon the success of the Miami Heat, 2011 could also mark the return of National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff games to American Airlines Arena from mid-April to mid-June, which would be the Heat's third consecutive playoff return.

Another 2011 milestone is the bureau's launch of the first Miami Romance Month in June. Specifics for the promotional



Photo by Maxine Usdan

William Talbert III: "This community always starts the year off fast."

campaign are still being planned, but, Mr. Talbert said, the bureau is currently working to develop a partnership with The Knot, a multi-media company for couples getting married, having a child or moving in together. The romance month joins six other bureau months, including Miami Spa Month in July and Miami Live Music

Month in November.

October is to bring a big change to Miami International Airport with the launch of the MIA mover, a train connecting the airport terminals with the Rental Car Center. The 1.25-mile elevated mover is to carry 3,000 passengers per hour and improve the experience of the airport's 35 million annual travelers.

Many professional meetings, an economic generator for the county, are also expected in 2011. From March 15-17 the annual trade show Cruise Shipping Miami is to return with 13,000 attendees and an economic impact of almost \$5 million.

With individuals coming from countries such as China and the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Talbert said, "this is the number-one cruise show in the world today."

From July 31-Aug. 4, the American Statistical Association is to host its convention at the Miami Beach Convention Center bringing 9,000 attendees and roughly \$8 million of economic activity. The American Society of Radiation Oncology's local meeting Oct. 2-5 is to have almost 30,000 hotel room nights booked, over 12,000 attendees and an impact of \$16 million.

Another fall meeting is the American Academy of Periodontology's conference Nov. 13-15 with a projected local impact of \$5.5 million, 7,000 room nights and 5,200 attendees.

PEOPLE

Preferred Care CEO to aid governor-elect

Florida Governor-elect Rick Scott has appointed Joseph L. Caruncho to his 40-member Health and Human Services Transition Team. The group is to advise Mr. Scott on healthcare administration.

Mr. Caruncho is CEO of Preferred Care Partners and a former healthcare attorney.



Rick Scott



Joseph Caruncho



Rosanna Fiske

Public Relations Society names CEO

Rosanna Fiske has been named CEO and chair of the Public Relations Society of America. Ms. Fiske is graduate program director at Florida International University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Before joining the univer-

sity in 2006, she held numerous senior communications, marketing and management positions.

Cabin Fever partners with architect

Award-winning architect Ed Binkley has partnered with Little Haiti-based Cabin Fever to launch the Shelter Series, a collection of eco-friendly af-

fordable homes. Mr. Binkley is principal and president of ed binkley design.

Cabin Fever manufactures prefabricated cabins, homes and small accessory buildings shipped across the US.

US-Mexico Chamber names director

Erksy Ricaño Corona has been named business devel-

opment director for the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce's Inter-American Chapter. He was previously a strategic analyst for Sepac Corp.

Mr. Ricaño holds a bachelor's degree in international business from the Universidad del Valle de México, a bachelor's degree in industrial and system engineering from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey and an international master's degree in business administration from the Institute for Executive Development.

BankUnited names VP

BankUnited has named Mailyn Fernandez vice president and private banker. She

will be based in the bank's Brickell office.

Ms. Fernandez was most recently a commercial loan officer for Sabadell United Bank. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Miami and is an alumna of the Harvard Business School's Summer Venture in Management Program.

HDR names senior manager

HDR has named Joseph Borello a senior project manager. He will be based in HDR's Miami Lakes office.

Before joining HDR, he served as the Florida Department of Transportation District Four design build coordinator.



MIAMI TODAY,

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

MIAMI HERALD,

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Air show's takeoff needs clearance from grant funds traffic controllers

BY ZACHARY S. FAGENSON

The Beacon Council, the county's official economic development arm, is working to ensure that the Miami International Aerospace Show gets off the ground in 2012 but is awaiting several key steps, including leasing 54 acres in Homestead from the county, securing federal grant money and signing on a major aerospace manufacturer, before it can take off.

The county commission in early October informally agreed to put up \$15 million to improve land adjacent to Homestead Air Force Base based on a presentation by Beacon Council President and CEO Frank Nero.

At the moment, the agency and the county are in talks as to how the county can pass over the land and what needs to be done to make it fit for a massive commercial air show.

"We've requested a site review committee, a county process to bring in various departments to identify what's allowable and what the requirements are," said James Kohnstamm, Beacon Council assistant vice president for business expansion, retention, recruitment and urban initiatives.

The agency hopes costs for any future studies, he continued, will be funded by a \$400,000 grant it's applied for from the federal Economic Development Administration.

But the county's \$15 million, which would come from general obligation bonds, is only a "placeholder" figure until all the site studies are done. The actual amount the site will need, Mr. Kohnstamm said, isn't yet set in stone.

The Beacon Council is to put up a 20% match to the grant and expects to find out this month whether it will receive the federal money.

Meanwhile, the agency is still courting major domestic aerospace manufacturers to sign on as a kind of title exhibitor, though the Beacon

Council remains tightlipped as to which companies it's pursuing.

"That is our primary focus going forward," Mr. Kohnstamm said. "As to the specifics, I'll be able to provide you updates later."

Jean-Michel Caffin, managing partner for Axis Americas LLC and chair of the Beacon Council's aviation committee, was also mum on the flight plan.

Mr. Kohnstamm wouldn't say what the agency's deadlines are for securing big exhibitors, but the clock appears to be ticking.

During Mr. Nero's October presentation, he told commissioners manufacturers were then planning their 2011-2012 budgets and the council had to act to soon to ensure the Miami show was counted.

The hope is to put together the North American equivalent of the Paris air show, Le Bourget, or the Farnborough Air Show.

Planned as a five-day event, the commercial air show could pull in about 200,000 public attendees, house more than 800 exhibitors and generate up to \$100 million in hotel reservations, day pass sales and parking, Mr. Nero said.

Though open to the public, the show would be largely geared to members of aerospace industry.

International media carefully watch shows like Le Bourget to see which nations or airlines buy aircraft and from which manufacturers.

And with a visit to Le Bourget on the horizon in early summer 2011, it seems the agency has special plans on tap.

"The governor's transition team has said that it might be a recommendation for him to attend, and we would welcome his participation," Mr. Kohnstamm said. "We will likely have a bigger impact on the show... Attending more days of the air show, maybe arriving some days before and then of course coordinating meetings with certain targeted companies will all be part of that effort."

THE LAST WORD

EATING OUT: City Hall, a down-home restaurant featuring such comfort food as fried chicken and specialties like thick-cut bacon with truffle sauce, is the joint venture of **Steve Hass**, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's chairman and former co-owner and operating partner of Soyka Restaurant, and Chef **Tom Azar**, former executive chef of Emeril Lagasse's restaurants. The new downtown eatery, 2004 Biscayne Blvd., is to open for lunch and dinner in January or February.

SUNSHINE STATE FINANCING: In an effort to take advantage of temporary tax credits, Miami-Dade commissioners took a break from holiday festivities to approve paper loan agreements. The commission approved Dec. 9 a resolution amending and restating loan agreements with the Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission. As a result, the Sunshine Commission is to refund the county \$225.9 million in commercial paper revenue notes. The notes are secured by Dexia LOC and will expire June 2, 2011, as the company will no longer provide them. According to county documents, if a substitute provider wasn't secured by the time Dexia stopped handling the notes or if the commercial paper wasn't refunded, all corresponding loans would come due. **Carter Hammer**, county finance director, recommended the county take advantage of tax credits that were set to end Dec. 31.

SHIP TO SHORE: Miami made good on its promise to clear a 63-foot derelict ship anchored in the Miami River just West of Dolphin Expressway in mid December. The work was done over three days by Blue Water Marine Services Inc., which hauled the debris to a Miami-Dade landfill, according to city Marinas Manager **Stephen Bogner**. And during tight financial times, the project also edged under the projected \$25,000 budget at \$24,499.98.



Derelict vessel was removed.

COMING SOON: The Beacon Council, the county's economic development arm, expects to learn this month whether it will get grants from the federal Economic Development Agency and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, according to **Holly Wiedman**, executive vice president of strategic planning and market development. The agency has applied for \$250,000 and \$167,000 respectively to fund a renewed One Community One Goal study and is relying on the money to hire consultants to do the bulk of the number-crunching. The study, to be presented at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's June goals conference, could determine industries the community will work to grow in coming years.



Holly Wiedman

Be center stage as the New World Center opens

January 20

The sparkling, cutting-edge New World Center campus of the New World Symphony opens its doors to the world January 25 as the focal point of a three-block Miami Beach redevelopment.

Miami Today will preview the extraordinary new campus, the six days of festivities and the impact of the New World Center on Greater Miami and the future of South Florida arts and culture in a special section January 20.

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MIAMI TODAY

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New tower nearly done, renovation signs first tenant at 396 Alhambra

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

396 Alhambra, the latest office project rising in Coral Gables, is starting the new year on the right square foot, with the new tower close to topping off and the building under renovation signing its first tenant.

Global architecture firm RTKL Associates has inked a 10-year lease for most of the fifth floor of 396 Alhambra, a \$130 million office project that encompasses a renovated seven-story office building and a 15-story Class A office tower at the southeast corner of Alhambra Circle and LeJeune Road.

Darryl Robinson, the project's leasing agent, said renovations at the existing 90,000-square-foot building should be completed by this quarter's end.

The 173,000-square-foot building under construction should top off at the end of this month and is expected to be ready for occupancy by December, said Mr. Robinson, principal of Oak Hill Advisors. The project also includes about 15,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space.

RTKL Associates is leaving its offices at 1500 San Remo Ave., within the Gables but closer to the core of South Miami, to move into 11,630 square feet of the existing building's 14,000-square-foot fifth floor.

Mr. Robinson represented the landlord and Alan Kleber of

Cushman & Wakefield of Florida represented the tenant in this lease.

Karl Stumpf, RTKL's senior vice president and director of its only Miami-Dade office based in the Gables, said the firm wanted to move to a more walkable and urban area with better access to transportation.

The international architecture and engineering firm has about 900 employees in 11 offices worldwide. Its Coral Gables office focuses on interior and architecture work for office buildings and the hospitality and cruise industries.

The firm has designed projects such as the JW Marriott Marquis Miami and Hotel Beau Arts Miami that recently opened within Wells Fargo Center, the under-construction 600 Brickell Financial Centre on the 600 block of Brickell Avenue, and Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Brickell Key.

The firm's international business, which represents about 70% of its work, is primarily concentrated in China and the Middle East.

Among qualities that attracted the design firm to 396 Alhambra was "the ownership, a good floor plate size that worked well for us" and a new parking garage, Mr. Stumpf said.

"What was really important to us was the configuration of the building," he said. "We work in an open and collaborative way.... Among all the buildings, the one we became most interested in was 396 Alhambra,

where we could accomplish space planning the way we wanted it the best."

As part of the development, a three-story garage on the property was demolished and replaced by an 884-space garage that is close to getting its temporary certificate of occupancy.

RTKL expects to move its staff of 35 to the new offices by the end of May.

The company is designing the space for about 55 people, Mr. Stumpf said, as it expects to continue growing.

Citibank inked a 10-year lease, with renewal options, last year for 5,500 square feet of retail space at the project's new north tower.

But the bank is to move into a temporary lobby location in the existing south tower while it waits for construction to wrap up at the new office building.

No other tenants have been announced at the new tower, Mr. Robinson said, but negotiations now under way could translate into 40,000 square feet of deals.

Asking rents at the existing seven-story building range from \$35 to \$40 a square foot on a gross basis, he noted, and \$40 to \$50 at the new tower.

The leasing team is also banking on the project's ownership to attract future tenants.

"The strength of ownership is very important, knowing that this project is self-funded, there's no debt on it, and there's a strong partnership committed to this project," he said.



Photo by Maxine Usdan

15-story, 173,000-square-foot 396 Alhambra should top off this month.

Agave Florida International, an affiliate real estate arm of Mexican tequila producer José Cuervo Group, and Alhambra Investors are the partners behind 396 Alhambra.

Eddie Avila, a Miami developer and the project manager, said the reason a global firm like RTKL opted to move to the renovated building is because it's undergoing a major makeover, including electrical and plumbing work as well as installation of a new roof, high-impact glass windows, new elevators and an air-conditioning system.

An architecture firm that has called the building home since before it was gutted and renovations began could also stay, Mr. Avila said, joining new ten-

ant RTKL.

Among additional tenants Mr. Avila hopes will be attracted to the office complex are Latin American companies planning to open offices in Miami-Dade and law firms that want to be in the Gables.

The building under renovation was once home to Exxon Latin America, he noted, which occupied the building as a single tenant.

Wrapping up construction on the new building's exterior should help increase leasing activity, Mr. Robinson added.

"Once the building is complete and they [prospective tenants] can really visualize how the building functions, its access, the parking amenities it has, it will be the top building in the Gables."

International condo buyers spur interest in Gables office tower

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

Veteran developer W. Allen Morris is eyeing new-to-market tenants and international firms to usher to his planned office project Ponce de Leon Towers in Coral Gables.



W. Allen Morris

Although plans are to begin construction in 2011, changes to the development's design and the pre-construction leasing are to ultimately determine when the project takes off.

Ponce de Leon Towers is a planned 210,000-square-foot luxury office building that is part of the seven-acre Old Spanish Village in the Gables.

Mr. Morris, chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Allen Morris Co., said the influx of international buyers,

primarily from Latin America and Europe, is driving interest from overseas businesses that are following their customers to South Florida.

"So many European and Latin American customers are coming here to buy condos and homes that companies that do business with them are following them here, such as international retailers and financial institutions," he explained.

Interest from international firms to expand into the Miami market is a bright spot for an office market that in 2010 was gloomy, depending heavily on local office tenants and offering free rent and other concessions.

Most of the leases signed in such office hubs as downtown Miami, Brickell and Coral Gables involved renewals or existing tenants relocating from one building to another.

"We see an interesting in-

terplay between international residential investors followed by the commercial firms that do business with these same customers," Mr. Morris added.

International buyers dominated the residential market last year, buying up condos and single-family homes in mostly all-cash transactions.

Mr. Morris said he is in discussions with prospective anchor tenants for the project whose requirements add up to about 200,000 square feet.

His goal has been to pre-lease 50% of the office building — around 100,000 square feet — before putting a shovel in the ground.

Right now, the 16-floor office project is about 15% leased, with 32,000 square feet reserved.

One tenant is the Rockefeller Group, taking up one full floor that totals 25,000 square feet. The other is the Allen Morris

Co., which is to move its headquarters from Alhambra Towers to the new building to occupy 7,000 square feet.

On the ground floor, the planned building is to house a bank branch, a restaurant and a financial services firm.

Just as in Alhambra Towers, another Allen Morris Co. development, the eight-level garage is to be the base of the building. Office floors are to begin on the ninth floor.

Discussions are under way to make some changes to Ponce de Leon Towers' design aimed at improving the project to meet tenants' needs.

Mr. Morris said he couldn't discuss what the changes are because they're still under review.

The project's timeline is going "to depend on how big the changes on the improvements are and what the tenants require....," he said, adding that the tenants play the most im-

portant role. "Whatever they want, they get."

Asking rental rates for the office project have been reduced to the mid-\$40s from the mid-\$50s per square foot because the estimated construction costs are lower today than when the project was conceived.

"It makes it reasonable and economical for new firms to lease space in the new buildings," Mr. Morris said. "We are competitive in the marketplace again because of the changes in the construction world."

Moving ahead, he foresees the Coral Gables office market strengthening and gradually getting back to business as usual, which should help the developer finalize some of the deals it has been working on.

"We see more rapid absorption of space. We see that actively happening," he said. "We hope to start seeing some of these deals [close] within 30 to 60 days."

Was Miami Tower sale the first big blast in homerun deals?

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

The high-profile sale of Miami Tower at the end of last year came after a long dry spell in transactions involving institutional-grade office properties. Though local brokers expect to see some pickup in activity in 2011, they're divided about how much.

"My belief is that investment sales activity for good quality assets in going to increase greatly in 2011," said Christian Lee, a vice president in the investment properties/institutional group at CB Richard Ellis.

"We've seen a rise in pricing this year pushed by a combination of healthy equity markets chasing deals, lack of deals to chase and a stabilization of market fundamentals in South Florida. That allows owners to get better pricing.

"On deals not that great to begin with, they will at least be able to recover their equity, and some people are going to make



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

"Sideline money seems to be looking for the homerun deals," explained Matthew Zifrony of Tripp Scott.

a profit. It's a situation where people who want to sell can sell — and that creates more activity."

In addition, he said, a lot more debt maturities are coming due

this year than in 2010, "and that to me suggests we will see a lot more activity. For these assets, lenders more often will work out a deal rather than foreclose. They are looking to sell things

they still have."

Mr. Lee said there is no dearth of money looking to buy high-quality assets.

"It appears to me as though there is almost as much equity

willing to invest in real estate today as there was at the height of the market," he said. "They can't get the same loan-to-value ratio as they did then, but there are substantially fewer opportunities to go after, so there's a certain scarcity premium."

But there are still some hurdles to overcome, said Matthew Zifrony, a director at Tripp Scott.

"Sideline money seems to be looking for the homerun deal," he said, "and that could continue until distressed properties are gone. Markets don't go back up until they hit bottom."

Though it's not as bad as it was, a lot of space remains empty in downtown office buildings, he said, and that could undermine the confidence that translates into opportunities to trigger sales.

"Buyers have concerns about buying a building they can't properly run," he said, "and then there's the question of how to determine price. There's a tremendous gap between buyers' and sellers' expectations."

Finally, Mr. Zifrony said, lenders are also trying to evaluate risk, and some hesitate to lend until they have a clearer picture.

"So sellers are the most optimistic, buyers are the most pessimistic and lenders the most realistic," he said. "Until there's significant improvement in the market, this standstill will continue."

While there's more noise and appetite out there, said Alex Zylberglait, director of the National Office & Industrial Properties Group at Marcus & Millichap, the Miami Tower sale "is not evidence that we are back in business.

"I do think the market is headed in the right direction. There's more credit available, not that it's necessary at this level. There's some initial activity on the commercial mortgage-backed securities front that may be a positive trend."

For example, he said, JP Morgan's recent issuance of \$500 million in mortgage bonds was oversubscribed in a previously dormant market.

"Generally," Mr. Zylberglait said, "the fundamentals are getting better, and that in and of itself gives investors enough interest level to want to poke around.

"The challenge is that supply for quality assets is very limited, and those who have a stable asset may think this is not the best time to sell, though I think that interest rates will go up and put upward pressure on cap rates, so it does make sense to seriously consider putting them on the market right now."

But he said he foresees more transactions this year than last.

"Part of the reason is there will be some creep-up of default rates that will push certain entities to say 'Okay, it's time,'" Mr. Zylberglait said. "Overall, because of the low cost of capital, they may feel more compelled to increase the level of demand, and that may push over some owners."

FINANCIAL Trends

January 27

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Brickell Financial Centre keystone for Brickell, downtown hub future

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

The fate of the Brickell Financial Centre, the last office project under construction in Miami's urban core, is of high interest to players in the downtown Miami and Brickell office hubs, as its future affects theirs.

The 40-story office tower at 600 Brickell Ave., although seen as a project with great potential because of its design and location, fell behind the two other projects recently built in the area.

Last year, Wells Fargo Center and 1450 Brickell wrapped up construction and began leasing and moving in tenants.

But that wasn't the case for the 605,000-square-foot Brickell Financial, still slated to finish construction in the summer.

It's key for the project to demonstrate its financial security, as these days nothing attracts a tenant more to a property than competitive rates and a strong ownership.

To draw tenants, "they have to be in a position in which they can assure future tenants that they can fund tenant improvement allowances and any other financial obligations they have, such as paying real estate taxes..." said Chris Lovell, senior managing director of tenant advisory Studley's Miami office.

Because Brickell Financial wasn't at least 75% complete by Jan. 1, 2010, the office building, along with Wells Fargo Center and 1450 Brickell, only paid taxes on the land last year.

The project's site was valued at \$12.8 million, a \$2.9 million drop from 2009, according to county property records.

The 2010 taxable values of some major area office towers ranged from \$20 million to \$270 million, translating into tax bills ranging from half a million dollars to \$6.7 million.

For the project to begin its leasing efforts it has to show proof of funding or financing, two office professionals say.

Foram Group, the tower's developer, has been in this market since the 1990s and the company has no known current debt on the building, which is to become its home.

"Whatever they do going forward, when they are ready to begin the marketing process they have to publicly demonstrate 'here's our developing partner or lending partner,'" Mr. Lovell said. "The market needs to see a word like 'partners.'"

Commercial Mortgage Alert reported that the ownership was seeking a "\$70 million bridge loan" to finish construction, ac-



'They had some challenges getting financing that has been the key to the whole thing.'

Scott Strickland

cording to a Jones Lang LaSalle third-quarter report.

The report also noted that the project's asking prices were reduced to a range of \$42 to \$48 per square foot, full service.

Scott Strickland, senior vice president and leasing director at Jones Lang, said brokers are reluctant to pursue projects with many unknowns.

"They [the developer] had some challenges getting financing that has been key to the whole thing," he said.

Foram hasn't publically stated that financing is what has kept Brickell Financial moving at a slow pace.

Another option could be selling the project, as well-heeled investors with capital in hand are scouring major US commercial markets for class A properties to buy.

For example, Miami Tower, an iconic color-changing, 600,000-square-foot office building in downtown Miami, sold for \$105.5 million last month.

"If they can't do that, [partner] effectively, they'll have to sell the whole project," Mr. Lowell said. "It's not inconceivable to think that they will sell a portion of the property to someone who might be interested in developing in this market."

The other two new buildings, 1450 Brickell and Wells Fargo Center, are making progress with leasing, as each completed several major lease transactions in 2010.

John Breistol, president of Foram Group, didn't return calls.

In an interview with Miami Today in August, he said the project's estimated completion date was this summer. But earlier that year, Foram had cited late 2010 as the finish date.

Brickell Financial hasn't announced any signed office tenants.

And in the August interview, Mr. Breistol said that leasing

wasn't expected to begin at the building until market conditions improved on the leasing end.

The office tower lost its first planned tenant, law firm Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod, in 2009 when the firm reversed plans to move in and months later leased 80,000 square feet at 1450 Brickell.

Last year, existing landlords had to adjust lease offers to compete with the attractive deals the two new towers were offering prospective tenants. This led to more renewals in the year's second half.

"Most existing landlords have made an adjustment," Mr. Strickland said. They've come "understand the market conditions and know how important it is to retain their tenants."

If this trend continues, once Brickell Financial begins leasing it is to compete not only with the new office product but with the more-established class A buildings.

Marketing of those 605,000 square feet of office space is likely to put more downward pressure on the Brickell and downtown office markets, already hurting from the 1.3 million square feet that came on line last year.

"The longer they delay it, the better it is for them and the market," Mr. Strickland said. "We are starting to see some encouraging signs in the market, activity is picking up... And we're seeing some new tenants coming to the market, albeit small ones, but nonetheless it makes a difference."

Despite its hurdles, Brickell Financial has major attributes to tout.

It's in a premier location on the 600 block of Brickell Avenue, which has a Metromover station, and is within walking distance of Mary Brickell Village's shopping and entertainment complex.

The project has Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold pre-certification from the US Green Building Council.

It's to also encompass a 30,000-square-foot plaza on the property's north side and has about 20,000 square feet of retail space that Mr. Breistol has said is slated for restaurants and other service providers like a dry cleaner.

"It's a nicely-designed building in a premier location," Mr. Lovell said, but "there comes a time where, like in that movie, you have to say 'show me the money.' They need to re-kick off that building, get excitement going, have the business community know where the financing for that building is coming from and do deals."



Photo by Maxine Usdan

Construction of Brickell Financial Centre is still scheduled to finish in summer. Completion may pressure office rents throughout area.

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Third Quarter 2010

	YTD total net absorption (sf)	YTD total net absorption (% of stock)	Direct vacancy (sf)	Direct vacancy (%)	Total vacancy (sf)	Total vacancy (%)	Average asking rent
Class A	22,485	0.50%	1,058,850	21.20%	1,073,494	21.50%	\$29.28
Class B	-28,230	0.60%	882,747	19.90%	917,648	20.70%	\$21.13
TOTALS	-5,745	0.10%	1,941,597	20.60%	1,991,142	21.10%	\$25.19

Source: Jones Lang LaSalle Americas

West of airport, largest county office market sees interest rise

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

Interest in the Doral-Airport West area, Miami-Dade County's largest office market, is picking up, and brokers are confident some of it will translate to more leasing this year.

One positive sign, says Richard Schuchts, senior vice president at Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, is a major lease renewal and expansion at Westside Plaza in Doral.

Oceania Cruises signed a 23,000-square-foot renewal and 54,500-square-foot expansion at Westside Plaza II for a total of 77,500 square feet, said Flagler Real Estate Services Vice President Juan Ruiz, who negotiated the deal with Flagler Senior Vice President George I. Pino on behalf of landlord Prudential Insurance Company of America.

He said the new lease filled that building and brought occupancy in the park to about 95%. Oceania first became a tenant there in 2005, leasing 5,500 square feet.

"We've had to drop rates like everybody else," Mr. Ruiz said, "But I believe rates have stabilized in this market. I don't think they'll go any lower, and concessions aren't as aggressive as they were six to eight months ago."

Mr. Schuchts estimated ask-



"We've had a drop in rates like everybody else," said Juan Ruiz.

ing rents, quoted at an average \$29.28 for class A space in Jones Lang LaSalle's third-quarter report, have come down about 10% over the past year.

"There's still a big discrepancy between asking rates and actual deals done," he said.

Lease rates in 2010 were more stable than in 2009, said Elizabeth Santos, a senior associate at CB Richard Ellis. "A lot of landlords have found the bottom," she said. "But there are still a lot of concessions offered, especially for a tenant of notable size."

With a dormant hurricane season and very competitive rates from vendors, almost every operating expense was reduced this year, said Jonathan Kingsley, managing director at Grubb & Ellis, "and that's a great thing for landlords. They can capture another dollar on the base rent side."

Overall vacancy in the airport market, he said, is 12%-15%; historically, in good times, it's under 10%.

"It varies by product type," Mr. Kingsley said. "Class A is close to 90% occupied and keeping relatively stable, but the loser is class B, which could be as much as 25% vacant."

"As in most markets," Mr. Schuchts said, "Class A is going to fill up and B and C are going to languish as people move up to quality."

A closer look indicates more space available than is generally recorded, Ms. Santos said.

"CB Richard Ellis tracks total availability as well as total vacancy," she said. "That includes subleases, office condos for rent and space we know will become available, for example when a tenant moves to a new building."

"What I have seen over 2010 is that the spread between those two figures is larger than usual. In the third quarter, total vacancy was 18.2%, but total availability was 23.6%. That's a huge spread."

Another cause for concern that's not reflected in the numbers, Mr. Schuchts said, is the large number of small spaces that have come on the market.

"This market was built on mom-and-pop businesses," he said, "and even in the worst of times there were very few



Jonathan Kingsley said, "Class A is close to 90% occupied" in area.

spaces of 2,500 square feet and below available.

"This recession has hit those users very hard, and there are a lot of those spaces available. That's very unusual. It concerns me for Miami in general to see those businesses not doing well."

Mr. Schuchts said the trend among Coral Gables or Brickell tenants to move to Airport West, where they could cut better deals, is drying up. "Those markets have weaknesses themselves now," he said, "and landlords are able to come up with creative solutions to marketing requirements."

"We do have a large submarket with potential for organic growth, but we're still seeing more situations where when tenants move, they are downsizing — not loss of jobs, but loss of occupancy."

As for most sectors of the

economy, Ms. Santos said, the office market is likely to stay stagnant until unemployment, now at about 13% locally, starts shrinking and businesses begin hiring again.

She noted that deals take twice or even three times as long to complete as they did before the recession.

"An office lease is a very big expenditure and a long-term commitment," she said, "so there are more and more layers of approvals and delays in signing off on things, though it's better than in 2009."

But as long as South American economies flourish, the airport market has an advantage.

"International trade has been saving us," Ms. Santos said — particularly with Brazil, ranked the area's No. 1 trading partner for the first 10 months of 2010 by the Miami Customs District.

And there are other causes for optimism.

"We're seeing a lot of activity right now," said Mr. Ruiz, who handles leasing at Downtown Doral as well as Westside Plaza. "We're working on 16 to 18 transactions, nine of which are expansions, all in different industries — and they are hiring more people."

"This is actually a busy December," Mr. Schuchts said. "It will be interesting to see if they're just kicking the tires or they turn into deals."



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FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE GREATER GOOD®

Chamber to line up international trips, focuses on Latin America

By ZACHARY S. FAGENSON

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce will follow the guidance of Enterprise Florida, the state's economic development agency, and a recent report by economist and St. Thomas University business school Dean J. Antonio Villamil to line up its international business trips in the new year.

The focus will be on Latin America, which is already closely tied to Miami and is predicted to grow economically during the next five years.

The chamber also has its eye on well-documented powerhouses China and India but doesn't have near-term trips planned to the region, according to Alejandra Collarte, chair of the chamber's Global Linkage Initiatives committee and director of international and corporate affairs at the University of Miami.

Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Peru and Mexico are among Florida's top trading partners with the highest predicted future gross domestic product growth — 3% to 6% annually through 2015 — according to International Monetary Fund and World Bank projections.

China and India's gross domestic products are predicted to grow 8% to 10% and 7% to 8% respectively during the timeframe, the report noted.

Chamber members ventured abroad only once last year. The organization will probably send two delegations abroad in 2011, with destinations largely determined by Enterprise Florida, which also helps fund the trips.

"This year we went to Colombia with Enterprise Florida," Ms. Collarte said, "and we had a mission to Spain that had been scheduled since last year, but due to the economic situation in Spain we had to cancel it."

Enterprise Florida has already scheduled trips to the Dominican Republic and Peru, though the chamber isn't "sure if we're going to join them," she added.

The agency provides grants worth \$7,500 to \$10,000 for promotional development with trade partners, said Manny Mencia, senior vice president international trade and business development for the agency.

"They propose the markets and if they complement our target and strategy, don't conflict with Enterprise Florida events and they agree to follow best practices, then we provide reimbursable grants," he said. The money's "got to be used for promotional expenses, one-on-one appointments, meeting rooms, translational services and transportation."

If the chamber heads south, it probably will hit several key countries on each trip.

"If we go to Peru we might also do Brazil or Chile. If the

Dominican Republic, maybe Panama," Ms. Collarte said.

When the chamber will push into Asia, however, remains unclear.

"Maybe the next chairman or the following one" will make that push, Ms. Collarte said.

Once that day comes, the pitch is likely to be that Asian giants can use South Florida's ties and knowledge of Latin America to access growing markets.

'We had a mission to Spain that had been scheduled since last year, but due to the economic situation in Spain we had to cancel it.'

Alejandra Collarte



Photo by Maxine Usdan

Brazil, Chile, Peru and Mexico are among Florida's top trading partners with the highest predicted future gross domestic product growth, according to International Monetary Fund and World Bank projections. Alejandra Collarte, chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, said that this year the chamber intends to plan business trips to Latin America, possibly including Peru, Brazil, Panama and Chile.

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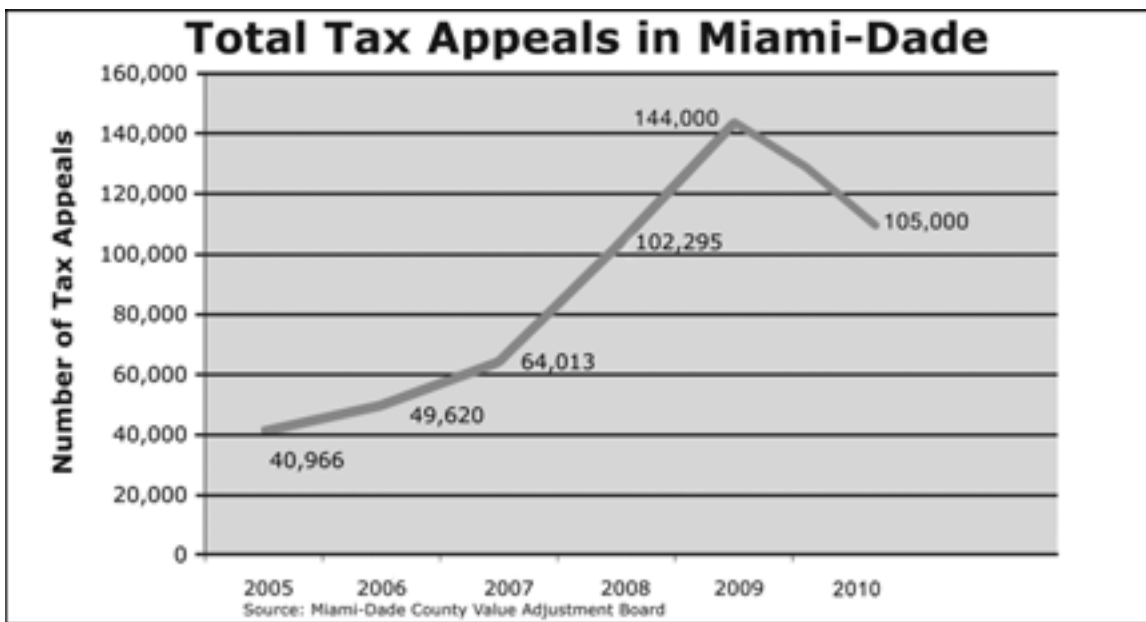
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With 70% of 2009 tax appeals heard, board on track to start 2010 in March

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

Miami-Dade's Value Adjustment Board has heard close to 70% of 2009 tax appeals and says it expects to start reviewing 2010 cases by March.

The pile of 2010 appeals has grown to 105,000 as of November from 90,000 in October and could inch up again because this tax year property owners can appeal late.

The 105,000 appeals so far counted is still under the record-setting 144,000 filed in 2009, but the time it's taken to handle those 2009 cases has delayed the start of 2010 hearings.

Robert Alfaro, valuation board manager, said 2010 residential and commercial property appeal hearings won't start until February or March because the magistrates who review the cases are still busy hearing last year's.

"If we have cases for 2009 that we haven't done, it doesn't make sense to schedule those [2010] cases," Mr. Alfaro explained.

The stack of 2010 appeals keeps growing because this year the Florida Department of Revenue allowed property owners to submit them late.

The process to file late remains the same. Petitioners first must file a hard-copy appeal and await a hearing date. At the hearing, they must demonstrate good reason for being tardy.

The first 2010 hearings will be those of properties with homestead exemption, of which the valuation board has received about 1,000 filings.

The board has also gotten 2,000 tangible property appeals that involve non-real estate property, such as office equipment or machinery.

Because the number of 2010 appeals is far below last year's record-setting count, Mr. Alfaro

said the valuation board should finish hearing all those cases sooner.

The board spent a year and a half hearing 2008 cases. Hearings began for those filed in 2009 in late spring and as of November were about 67% completed.

With almost 40,000 fewer cases this year and seven magistrates added along with two additional hearings rooms, this combination should help the board play catch-up.

More than 400 cases are getting heard daily, an average of 50 to 55 in each room.

This is the first year since 2005 that the appeals total is less than the prior year.

The number filed in Miami-Dade had risen in the past five years, with 102,295 in 2008 setting a record — about 40,000 more appeals than in 2007, according to the valuation board. Then, 2009 broke that record by far with 144,000.

Delays in the process reduce the number of unpaid tax certificates the county can auction off, which slows distribution of money to taxing authorities, including the county and cities.

The valuation board expects to begin sending out hearing dates for 2010 cases at the beginning of April, Mr. Alfaro said — if the 2009 process continues to run smoothly and is done by March.

As property owners begin to gather information to prove their cases to the board, which could translate into big savings on their tax bills, Mr. Alfaro recommends those using comparable sales as evidence should make sure these are from the correct tax year.

"In 2010 cases, they need to use comparable sales from 2009," he said. These are sales that took place on or before Jan. 1, 2010.

University transit link waits as others revitalize stations

BY MEENA RUPANI

While it's looking for sponsors for a rail station beautification partnership with Miami International University of Art and Design, Miami-Dade Transit has floated a number of other such projects to revitalize Metrorail and Metromover stations.

In August, the university agreed to partner with Miami-Dade Transit to update the design of Metromover stations. Little has happened since.

"We haven't heard from the county regarding the partnership in quite some time. I know they are looking for sponsorships and we are waiting on them to give us the go-ahead," said Marcia Gomez, university director of communications.

"The transit department received proposals from five or six students at the university a few months ago."

The university has made the developing of these proposals a part of its curriculum.

In the meantime, according to the county, Miami-Dade Transit also partnered with the Miami Marriott Dadeland and Courtyard Miami Dadeland as well as the county's community image advisory board to beautify the Dadeland South Metrorail station, 9150 Dadeland Blvd., in October.

"The Dadeland South station provides access to popular destinations such as the nearby mall," said Karla Damian, Miami-Dade Transit public information officer.

"A group of middle and high school students from the county also took time out of their weekend to help beautify the Culmer station at 701 NW 11th St."

The department said the volunteers were members of City Year, an organization that unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full time service.

"The Adopt-A-Station is an opportunity for groups and organizations to improve the



"The Adopt-A-Station is an opportunity for groups and organizations to improve the community's aesthetics by enhancing the appearance of Metromover stations."

Harpal S. Kapoor

community's aesthetics by enhancing the appearance of Metromover stations," Miami-Dade Transit Director Harpal S. Kapoor said.

There's no fee to adopt a station, but organizations and universities would have to provide the materials for their beautification projects.

According to the department, organizations agree to adopt a station for a year and are encouraged to reach out to independent businesses to solicit donations of items needed for the beautification, such as lighting equipment and plants.

In August Ms. Damian said, "There is no timeline set for the project and partnership with the university. We are always looking over proposals and for other organizations to partner with."

On Jan. 17, the department is to partner with City Year again as volunteers paint a large, colorful wall mural at the Allapattah Metrorail station, 3501 NW 12th Ave. More than 100 volunteers are expected to join in to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Riotous send-up of contemporary trends is a cautionary tale

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

The country is falling apart, but its citizens are too self-absorbed to notice. Novelist Gary Shteyngart's "Super Sad True Love Story" manages to be both a riotous send-up of contemporary trends and a cautionary tale.

Mr. Shteyngart is guest speaker at the Brickell Avenue Literary Society at a luncheon Jan. 11 at Northern Trust Bank, 710 Brickell Ave.

"Super Sad True Love Story" is set in a dystopic New York sometime in the not very distant future. The yuan is the new international monetary standard. The country, reduced politically to a single Bipartisan Party and run by something called the American Restoration Authority, is at war with Venezuela.

All of this is just a tiny part of the constant, all-encompassing data streaming cease-



lessly into apparatus, the tiny personal electronic devices in which everyone is engrossed — PDFs reduced to pendant-sized gadgets and enhanced with such features as the ability to access instantly the credit rating, job and desirability quotient of any passing stranger.

Adrift in this electronic future is Lenny Abramov, the 39-year-old son of Russian immigrants with a nostalgic bent.

"I live in the last middle-class stronghold in the city," says

Lenny, whose diary makes up about half the chapters of this book, "high atop a red-brick ziggurat that a Jewish garment workers' union had erected on the banks of the East River back in the days when Jews sewed clothes for a living. Say what you will, these ugly co-ops are full of authentic old people who have real stories to tell (although these stories are often meandering and hard to follow; e.g., who on earth was this guy 'Dillinger'?)"

He's among the oldest employees at Post-Human Services, which peddles immortality through chemistry to high net worth individuals, and obsessed with somehow avoiding his own death.

So he's a most unlikely partner for Eunice Park, a hip, sarcastic 20-something Korean American he met at a party in Rome, but when she moves in with him temporarily, she finds herself reciprocating Lenny's



infatuation.

Eunice's raunchy electronic messages tell her side of the story. "What kind of freaked me out," she writes a friend in one of her tamer messages, "was when I saw Len reading a book, and I don't mean scanning a text like we did in Euro Classics with that Chatterhouse of Parma I mean seriously READING."

From the financial crisis to the growing gap between the haves and have-nots to the demise of standards in a sea of information, Mr. Shteyngart spins today's headlines and concerns into a marvelously imaginative and frightening image of what we might become. Few American writers since Vonnegut have served up social satire with such acerbity and wit.

Born in Leningrad, the author has lived in the US since the age of 7. His two earlier novels, "The Russian Debutante's Handbook" and "Absurdistan," have been translated into 20 languages.

The Brickell Avenue Literary Society is sponsored by Northern Trust Bank and Miami Today. *Details: (305) 529-7713.*

"Super Sad True Love Story," by Gary Shteyngart, 362 pages, is \$26 hardbound from Random House. Details: www.atrandom.com.

Real Estate Today

THE REAL DEAL

HOMESTEAD SALE: Two apartment communities with a combined 150 units sold in Homestead for \$5.59 million to a Canadian private investor. The multifamily properties, built in 1970 and 1971, consist of two two-story apartment communities with 150 units. The buildings at 15451 SW 288th St. and 527 S Flagler Ave. recently underwent a renovation that included a new coat of paint and installation of ceramic tile floors, new air-conditioning units and cabinetry. The properties were sold by D&S Corp. of Miami, a multifamily owner based in Coral Gables, represented by Marcus & Millichap's **Daniel Draizin**, vice president of investments; **Evan Kristol**, senior vice president of investments; and **Still Hunter III**, first vice president of investments.



Daniel Draizin



Still Hunter III

NAI'S DEALS: NAI Miami completed 28,000 square feet of office and retail transactions throughout South Florida in November. NAI's Chief Executive Officer **Edward Schmidt** and **Jason Krieger**, a commercial associate, represented Kendall Executive Center at 9555 N Kendall Drive in a three-year, 1,555-square-foot lease to Center for Pediatric Therapy valued at about \$108,000. **Sherry Halstead**, NAI's director, advised Charles Schwab & Co. in a three-year, 3,720-square-foot lease renewal at office building 1000 Brickell Ave. In another deal, the firm's **Brandon Weiss**, director, and **Jeremy Larkin**, president, represented mortgage banking company Preferred Trust Home Loans in a five-year, 9,134-square-foot lease at 11740 SW 80th St. valued at about \$1 million.



Sherry Halstead

LAW FIRM EXPANDS: The Law Offices of Patrick L. Cordero PA, a bankruptcy firm in Miami-Dade, signed a 4,044-square-foot office lease at Blue Lagoon Office Park to open a satellite office. The law firm has experienced fast growth in recent years, as the economic recession has led to more clients and cases. **John Guzzo** of Kerdyk Real Estate brokered the deal on behalf of the tenant and **Ryan Holtzman** of Taylor & Mathis represented the owner, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

DADELAND MOVE: The 112,000-square-foot office building Dadeland Centre II recently leased its restaurant space to Bistro Off the Boulevard, formerly at the Wachovia Financial Center in downtown Miami. The Dadeland tower, which is 96% occupied, lost its former restaurant, Presidential Café Gourmet, after the owner began closing its Miami-Dade and Broward locations. The new eatery is taking up 1,206 square feet at the office building at 9150 S Dadeland Blvd., and is expected to open in January, said **Ellen Blasi**, leasing director at The Green Cos., the building's landlord. The restaurant is to serve breakfast, sandwiches, salads and entrees. Ms. Blasi was also recently appointed to district governor of Rotary International's South Florida district for 2013-2014. "My biggest goal is to make sure more people in our communities, within our district, are aware of Rotary, what it is and the opportunities that exist within Rotary."

AGENT ADDED: Realty professional **Jorge Fernandez** has left his position as senior sales associate at Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell Realtors to join One Sotheby's International Realty. The Miami native was hired as a sales associate at One Sotheby's Coral Gables office. Mr. Fernandez, who has 10 years of experience in real estate Internet marketing, averages about \$50 million in annual sales. "Jorge exposes his sellers to a global audience through his effective use of the internet and other social media outlets," said President **Beth Butler**, also a former EWM executive. "In order to expose the sellers locally and nationally, Jorge uses innovative marketing techniques to network with agents, which ultimately gives added value to his clients and to ONE Sotheby's International Realty." He plans to use his realty marketing and sales expertise in this new position, where he is to specialize in selling luxury single-family homes and condominiums.



Evan Kristol



Edward Schmidt



Ellen Blasi



Jorge Fernandez

New hub at Macy's may spur big area makeover

BY YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

The planned restaurant and entertainment hub for downtown Miami's epicenter could be the beginning of a major makeover for the area, which is still struggling to draw a nocturnal crowd.

Although the Downtown Development Authority has spent its dollars to create a cleaner and more-decorated Central Business District by fixing the streets, maintaining cleanliness and increasing safety, today's downtown core is calling for more.

An increasing urban population that now lives in those condominiums built in downtown, Brickell and Omni during the last condo boom represent younger and more sophisticated consumers to which the district's current tenant mix doesn't appeal, said Bill Fuller, co-founder and managing partner of the Barlington Group.

"These types of tenants are not addressing the needs of the demographics or the customer traffic coming from the [cruise] ships," Mr. Fuller said. "There is just a void in the market."

Mr. Fuller and business partner Martin Pinilla II teamed up with Macy's to fill 20,000 square feet of street-level retail space on the west building of Macy's downtown property.

The partnership, Mr. Fuller said, "is a commitment from Barlington Group and Macy's to introduce restaurants and entertainment-type tenants to energize that neighborhood," especially after work hours.

Although, some desirable tenants are starting to move to the area and being embraced by downtown's growing population, Mr. Fuller said, there's room for more.

Downtown's epicenter, the team said, still needs more traffic at night to achieve the success other nearby areas like Midtown and Brickell have by catering to the new needs of an evolving community.

Timing is everything, Mr. Pinilla said, and the timing was right for this project.

"The community that is growing in downtown with the new condominiums is a big part of the emerging downtown that we are experiencing, from new businesses and shops popping up to a lot of public and private industry investment to turn downtown Miami into a 24-hour city."



The aim is to create a countywide entertainment destination, says Keyes Company VP Larry Gautier.

Condo sales in the greater downtown area soared 62% from January to September of 2010 compared to that same period in 2009, rising from 1,714 to 2,754 condo closings, Craig Werley, president of Focus Real Estate Advisors, has said.

The majority of these units have been sold to international investors, who plan to sell them in the future and reap the profits, but in the meantime, many are renting them to young professionals and college students who want to live in the urban core.

"As we have experienced new neighborhoods pop up like Midtown and Little Havana," Mr. Pinilla said, "we want the same thing to happen to downtown, to see this as a new neighborhood to play in, not just work in."

Ultimately, the aim is to not only draw nearby residents and area workers, but to create a destination that "people will travel from all four corners of the county" to visit and enjoy, said Larry Gautier, Keyes Co.'s regional vice president, who advised Macy's in its search for the right partnership.

This planned restaurant and entertainment complex offers a unique opportunity to take a historic structure and revitalize not only the building but the surrounding area, Mr. Fuller said, while offering downtown patrons a concept they've been craving.

"We all have invested interest in making this a success economically," he said, "and showing the community we are going to develop this project with the right intentions, and have an impact on the economic development of the surrounding area."

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ART**Thursday 1/6****AMAZON ART**

Observations from trips to the Amazon's ethnically diverse communities inspired artist Joaquin Gonzalez's works in his latest exhibition. Ends Jan. 7. Galerie Carré Rouge at Alliance Française South Florida, 618 SW Eighth St., Miami. *Details:* (305) 859-8760 or www.afmiami.org.

MODERN IDENTITY

Photographs, architectural drawings, posters, record albums and more illustrate how international links contributed to Havana's development of a modern identity in the decades before the Cuban Revolution in "La Habana Moderna." Ends Jan. 9. *Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University, 10975 SW 17th St., Tamiami.* *Details:* (305) 348-2890 or <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>.

INSPIRED DEPICTIONS

Miami Art Museum showcases works of the late Robert Rauschenberg, examining the artist's techniques over his career. Includes "Untitled" from his Copper Series and several works from his estate. Ends April 10. Miami Art Museum, 101 W Flagler St., Miami. *Details:* (305) 375-3000 or www.miamiartmuseum.org.

LITTLE HAITI

The Museum of Contemporary Art presents "Bruce Weber: Haiti/Little Haiti." The collection of photographs includes 75 images taken from 2003 to 2010, depicting Miami's Haitian community. Ends Feb. 13. Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th St., North Miami. *Details:* (305) 893-6211 or info@mocanomi.org or www.mocanomi.org.

SEVEN STANDOUTS

Bakehouse Art Complex presents ¡SIN!, a juried exhibition inspired by human transgressions. Some of Miami's most prominent art professionals will curate the exhibit, each focusing on a specific sin. Panelists include Silvia Karman Cubiñá, executive director and chief curator of the Bass Museum of Art; Brian Dursum, executive director and curator of the Lowe Art Museum; and Peter Boswell, senior curator of the Miami Art Museum. Ends Jan. 24. Bakehouse Art Complex, 561 NW 32nd St., Miami. *Details:* (305) 576-2828 or www.bacfl.org.

LES LALANNE

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden presents "Les Lalanne at Fairchild," the largest outdoor exhibition in the US of works by French sculptors Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne. Part of the garden's annual visual art program, the exhibition features more than 20 sculptures – including works never publicly displayed in the US – and a multi-piece work made of more than a dozen pieces. All will be displayed throughout the garden's 83 acres by Central Park's Frederick Law Olmsted group. Ends May 31. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables. \$12-\$25. *Details:* (305) 667-1651 or www.fairchildgarden.org.

PIN-UP PARTY

The World Erotic Art Museum presents "From Pompeii To Pin-Up." Features erotic art prints and sculptures from Pompeii and pin-up drawings by American artist Jon Hull. Exhibit ends Jan. 10. World Erotic Art Museum, 1205 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. Members free. Others \$15. No one under 18 admitted. *Details:* (305) 532-9336 or www.weam.com.

SCULPTURE SOLO

Artist Jonathan Meese's sculptures are displayed in his first major solo museum exhibition in the US. Includes the first ceramic talisman he created when he was 15, large bronze sculptures and set designs for opera productions. Ends Feb. 13. Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th



TEA TIME: Enjoy an authentic afternoon tea including scones, savories and desserts. 3 p.m. Jan. 9. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Jean DuPont Shehan Visitor Center Ballroom, Coral Gables. \$17 for children under 12. Fairchild members \$27. Others \$37. *Details:* (305) 667-1651 or www.fairchildgarden.org.

calendar of events

week of thursday,
january 6, 2011

St., North Miami. *Details:* (305) 893-6211 or info@mocanomi.org or www.mocanomi.org.

Friday 1/7**EMOTION AS ART**

RODEZart.com Gallery presents "PERSONALITIES: an Exploration of the relationship between emotional states and art. This George Rodez solo exhibit takes the onlooker into his world, relaying different experiences and emotional states in each work. Ends Jan. 31. CocoWalk, 3015 Grand Ave., suite 237, Coconut Grove. *Details:* (786) 467-7111 or www.rodezart.com.

Saturday 1/8**BEAUX ARTS**

The Annual Beaux Arts Festival, Miami's oldest juried fine arts show, returns for its 60th anniversary. The outdoor fair features museum-quality pieces from artists across the country. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Ends Jan. 9. Grounds of the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami, 1301 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables. Free. *Details:* www.beauxartsmiami.org.

"TRINACRIA"

Ralph Provisero's solo exhibition "Trinacria" opens, featuring three large-scale works with drawings and models. Mr. Provisero's work has been showcased internationally in venues like the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Ateneo de Yucatán and Chicago's Navy Pier. University of Miami Wynwood Project Space, 2200A NW Second Ave., Miami. *Details:* (305) 284-2543 or m.cardosol@miami.edu or www.as.miami.edu/art.

DUAL OPENING

Diana Lowenstein Fine Arts holds an opening reception for two new exhibitions: Ralf Peters' "100 Masterpieces" and Gerry Stecca's "CLOTHESPINS" series. 7:30-10 p.m. Exhibits end March 5. Diana Lowenstein Fine Arts, 2043 N Miami Ave., Miami. *Details:* (305) 576-1804 or www.dlfinearts.com.

Tuesday 1/12**BOOT CAMP**

Museum of Contemporary Art Executive Director and Chief Curator Bonnie Clearwater hosts the MOCA by MOONLIGHT: Contemporary Art Boot Camp, a contemporary art history lecture series. January's installment is "Mark Rothko: Tragedy, Ecstasy, Doom." 7 p.m. Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th St., North Miami. \$10 members. \$15 others. *Details:* (305) 893-6211 or rsvp@mocanomi.org or www.mocanomi.org.

Wednesday 1/13**"UNCLEAR INTENTIONS"**

Miami Dade College holds an opening reception for Kristen Tabone Woodward's "Unclear Intentions" exhibition with the artist, featuring encaustic and paper target paintings. The works were inspired by Ms. Woodward's research into biblical women and the relationship between gender and Judeo-Christian tradition, addressing issues like reproduction, martyrdom, transformation and temptation. The mixed-media works feature layered papers created by the artist from indigenous plants and found papers that had another func-

tion such as lottery tickets and luggage tags. 6-8 p.m. Ends Jan. 25. Miami Dade College InterAmerican Campus, 627 SW 27th Ave., room 3113, Miami. *Details:* www.mdc.edu.

BOOKS**Thursday 1/6****HEALTH SECRETS**

Health-savvy writer Gene Stone discusses his book "Secrets of People Who Never Get Sick." Learn about the 25 people profiled in its pages that each have a different secret to excellent health and the science behind it. 7 p.m. Books & Books, 9700 Collins Ave., Bal Harbour. *Details:* (305) 864-4241 or www.booksandbooks.com.

MEAT MAVEN

Chef Rick Tramonto discusses his cookbook "Steak with Friends," which features 150 Chicago-area steak and seafood recipes plus accompaniments. 8 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

Friday 1/7**BOOK CLUB KICKOFF**

Books & Books holds a Book Club New Year's Party with Kim Edwards, author of "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" and "Lake of Dreams." Get book suggestions, free advance copies of Ms. Edwards' books and mingle with fellow book lovers. 6:30 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

HEALTH SECRETS

Health-savvy writer Gene Stone discusses his book "Secrets of People

Who Never Get Sick." Learn about the 25 people profiled in its pages that each have a different secret to excellent health and the science behind it. 8 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

Saturday 1/8**HEADLINE MAKER**

South Florida's Father Albert Cutié, once a poster boy of the Catholic Church, made international headlines when his love affair was discovered. Now, he shares his deeply personal tale of soul searching, praying for answers and discovering a new way of serving God in his book "Dilemma." 7 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

Sunday 1/9

Author Lester Goran leads a discussion on his collection of short stories "Tales from the Irish Club." 4 p.m. John Martin's Irish Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile, upstairs room, Coral Gables. *Details:* www.emeraldsocietysfl.com.

Monday 1/10**MEDICAL MYTHS**

Separate the hype from fact with Dr. Sanjiv Chopra, professor of medicine and faculty dean for continuing medical education at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Chopra's book "Doctor Chopra Says: Medical Facts and Myths Everyone Should Know" touches on everything from whether or not to vaccinate children and which vitamins to take. 8 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

Tuesday 1/11**KUGEL AND COUSCOUS**

Author Joan Nathan shares her celebrated cookbook "Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous" on Jewish-French cooking. Ms. Nathan explores the 2,000-year history of Jews in France, extracting a treasure trove of kosher recipes like a bacon-free quiche Lorraine, brisket with ginger, orange peel and tomato and Southwestern cassoulet with duck and lamb. 8 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

Thursday 1/13**UNLIKELY FRIENDS**

Discover the curious story of the friendship between a boxer and man of letters as told by Jay Tunney, author of "The Prizefighter and the Playwright: Gene Tunney and Bernard Shaw." The dual biography chronicles the relationship between the two men who had a 40-year age difference. Mr. Tunney is the son of famed fighter Gene Tunney. 8 p.m. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

BUSINESS**Thursday 1/6****BAY BUSINESS**

The Palmetto Bay Business Association holds a general membership meeting. 11:30 a.m.-noon networking. Noon-1 p.m. meeting. La Mela, 14151 US 1, Palmetto Bay. \$15 members. \$20 nonmembers. *Details:* (786) 306-4378 or www.palmettobaybusiness.com.

Friday 1/7**TROW'S CEOS**

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce holds its "Trow Knows CEO's" monthly event, featuring talks by area executives. 8:30 a.m. Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, 224 Catalonia Ave., Coral Gables. *Details:* (305) 446-1657 or www.gableschamber.org.

Tuesday 1/11**PROPERTY TALK**

The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce's Real Estate Council holds its monthly meeting. 8-9 a.m.

calendar of events

ELSEWHERE



The Toronto Symphony Orchestra by Cylla Von Tiedemann

Stirring Symphony

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra plays Barber's "Violin Concerto, op. 14," Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5, op. 64, E minor" and more. Led by conductor Peter Oundjian. Features violinist James Ehnes. 8 p.m. Jan. 11. Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$35-\$95.

Details: (954) 462-0222 or www.browardcenter.org.

MUSIC



Judy Scott

Irving's Hits

"Say It With Music: The Songs of Irving Berlin" is a 64-song revue including Mr. Berlin's classic songs "Cheek to Cheek," "They Say It's

Wonderful" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." Judy Scott and other guest stars are to perform. 8 p.m. Jan. 12-14, 2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 15 and 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 16. Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, 3385 NE 188th St., Aventura. \$32. Details: (954) 462-0222 or www.aventuracenter.org.

THEATER



Scene from "A Round-Heeled Woman." Image by George Schiavone.

Ready for Change

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Sharon Gless performs in the Southeastern premiere of "A Round-Heeled Woman." Based on the true memoir of Jane Juska, a former high school English teacher who seeks intimacy after being celibate for 30 years. See what happens after she takes out an ad in the personals section of the "New York Review of Books" reading "Before I turn 67 - next March - I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like." 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Jan. 7-30. GableStage, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables. \$37.50-\$47.50.

Details: (305) 445-1119 or www.gablestage.org.

ART



A Mark Rothko piece.

Boot Camp

Museum of Contemporary Art Executive Director and Chief Curator Bonnie Clearwater hosts the MOCA by MOONLIGHT: Contemporary Art Boot Camp, a contemporary art history lecture series. January's installment is "Mark Rothko: Tragedy, Ecstasy, Doom." 7 p.m. Jan. 12. Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th St., North Miami. \$10 members. \$15 others.

Details: (305) 893-6211 or rsvp@mocanomi.org or www.mocanomi.org.

BOOKS



Father Albert Cutié.

Headline Maker

South Florida's Father Albert Cutié, once a poster boy of the Catholic Church, made international headlines when his love affair was discovered. Now, he shares his deeply personal tale of soul searching, praying for answers and discovering a new way of serving God in his book "Dilemma." 7 p.m. Jan. 8. Books & Books, 265 Aragon

Ave., Coral Gables.

Details: (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

BUSINESS

Economic Summit

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce holds a half-day South Florida Economic Summit. Governor-elect Rick Scott is to open the summit, followed by an economic overview by JPMorgan Chase Senior Economist Jim Glassman and panel discussions with South Florida experts on nine industries. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jan. 11. Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Watson Island. \$75-\$200.

Details: (305) 577-5432 or cpereira@miamichamber.com or www.miamichamber.com.

FILM



Poster for "Partir"

Ugly Revenge

In 2010 French film "Leaving," ("Partir") the bourgeois wife of a successful doctor living in the south of France finds refuge from her lackluster life in a passionate affair with the young Ivan, an immigrant ex-con working on her family's property. Wracked with guilt, she confesses to her husband, whose retaliation unleashes a series of ugly events. In French with English subtitles. 9:15 p.m. Jan. 6. Miami Dade College Tower Theater, 1508 SW Eighth St., Miami. \$6.

Details: (305) 643-8706 or www.mdc.edu/culture/

tower.htm.

OUTDOORS



Fresh berries.

Gone Pickin'

Get outside and explore South Miami-Dade with a stop at Redlands landmark Burr's Berry Farm. Take a seat at a nearby picnic table and enjoy homemade strawberry milkshakes, fresh produce and strawberry-cinnamon coffee cake while the berries are in season. Burr's Berry stand, 12741 Hainlin Mill Drive (SW 216th St.), Homestead.

Details: (305) 251-0145 or www.redlandriot.com/Burrs.html.

FOODIES



Kugel and Couscous

Author Joan Nathan shares her celebrated cookbook "Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous" on Jewish-French cooking. Ms. Nathan explores the 2,000-year history of Jews in France, extracting a treasure trove of kosher recipes like a bacon-free quiche Lorraine, brisket with ginger, orange peel and tomato and Southwestern cassoulet with duck and lamb. 8 p.m. Jan. 11. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables.

Details: (305) 442-4408 or www.booksandbooks.com.

BUSINESS cont.

Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce boardroom, 1920 Meridian Ave., Miami Beach. Open to chamber members. Details: (305) 695-6834 or kathleen@miamibeachchamber.com or www.miamibeachchamber.com.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce holds a half-day South Florida Economic Summit. Governor-elect Rick Scott is to open the summit, followed by an economic overview by JPMorgan Chase Senior Economist Jim Glassman and panel discussions with South Florida experts on nine industries. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Watson Island. \$75-\$200. Details: (305) 577-5432 or cpereira@miamichamber.com or www.miamichamber.com.

SHINDIG SESSION

Learn how to grow your business by hosting your own events at this expert panel discussion hosted by the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce's Emerging Leadership Council. Panelists are Jacquie O'Malley, group vice president of development for United Way; Sabrina Badeaux, owner of Chez Badeaux Salon; Caterina Falcone, marketing director with the Miami New Times and Felipe Basulto of TD Bank. 11:30

a.m.-2 p.m. Gemma Lounge, 529 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. \$20-\$35. Details: (305) 695-6833 or valerie@miamibeachchamber.com or www.miamibeachchamber.com.

CREW LUNCH

Commercial Real Estate Women-Miami holds an economic outlook luncheon. 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Four Seasons Hotel Miami, 1435 Brickell Ave., Miami. \$45-\$320. Details: www.crewmiami.org.

FISCAL FUTURE

The Financial Planning Association of Miami-Dade holds a dinner meeting. Ryan Leggio of Morningstar is to discuss "Using Fund Analysis to Improve the Investor Experience" and Ron A. Rhoades is to talk about "What Will Happen Next in Washington DC - Fiduciary Standard for BDS? FINRA as SRO for RIAs." 5:30-6 p.m. registration and networking. 6-8 p.m. dinner and presentations. University of Miami BankUnited Center, 1245 Dauer Drive, Hurricane 100 room, Coral Gables. \$45 members and \$55 in advance. \$55 members and \$70 others at the door. Details: (786) 390-7655 or info@fpamiamidade.org or www.fpamiamidade.org.

ANNUAL FORECAST

CFA Miami, a nonprofit organization of area investment professionals, holds its Annual Economic Forecast Dinner with guest speaker Dr. Marc Faber, author of "The Gloom,

Boom and Doom Report." 6-8 p.m. The Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Virginia Key. \$25 members. \$35 others. Details: www.cfa-miami.org.

Wednesday 1/12

MOVING ON

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce holds a "Re-Employment and Outplacement Breakfast Seminar." Panelists Alan Berger, senior vice president of client relationships at Octagon Search and Octagon Technology Staffing; Maria del Busto, global chief human resources officer and vice president at Royal Caribbean Cruises; and Thomas Shea, CEO of the Florida/Caribbean region for Right Management discuss the job market. 8:30-11 a.m. Royal Caribbean Cruises, 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami. Free. RSVP required. Details: (305) 577-5445 or lventura@miamichamber.com or www.miamichamber.com.

NETWORKING LUNCH

Chamber South holds a networking luncheon. 11:45 a.m. Carrabba's Italian Grill, 5829 SW 73rd St., South Miami. \$25-\$45. Details: (305) 661-1621 or www.chambersouth.com.

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Connect with governmental-purchasing professionals from Miami-Dade County, other municipalities and economic development agencies at The Mayor's Small Business Development Workshop. Learn about

preparing a financial plan, how to market your business and more at this Miami-Dade County-sponsored event. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. African Heritage Cultural Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. RSVP required. Details: (305) 375-3186 or sbdmail@miamidadegov.

Thursday 1/13

SAFE TRAVELS

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce holds a "Global Intelligence Briefing" on "Competitive and Protective Intelligence When Doing Business Abroad." 8-10 a.m. Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, 1601 Biscayne Blvd., ballroom level, Miami. \$20-\$35. Details: (305) 577-5477 or jgonzalez@miamichamber.com or www.miamichamber.com.

ARAGON OUTING

Stroll Aragon Avenue in Downtown Coral Gables with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. The evening includes stops at the Coral Gables Art Cinema, The Coral Gables Museum and Books & Books. 5:30-8 p.m. Coral Gables Art Cinema, 260 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. \$25-\$30. Details: (305) 446-1657 or www.gableschamber.org.

CHILDREN

Thursday 1/6

"DINO ISLAND"

Roam among Jurassic reptiles at the Miami Children's Museum's

"Dino Island" exhibit. The 2,500-square-foot, custom-built set is home to nine lifelike dinosaurs. Ends Jan. 2. Miami Children's Museum, 980 MacArthur Causeway, Watson Island. Museum entrance is \$15 for adults and children, \$12 for Florida residents, free for children under one year. Details: (305) 373-5437 or www.miamichildrensmuseum.org.

Friday 1/7

BARNUM & BAILEY

The Greatest Show on Earth comes to Miami as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey present "FUNdrum!" Features 130 performers from six continents, including pachyderms, cowboys, pirates and mermaids. Times vary. Ends Jan. 17. American Airlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$16-\$100. Details: (800) 745-3000 or www.ringling.com.

DANCE

Thursday 1/6

MILONGUERO MOVES

Learn to dance Milonguero-style Argentine tango at these weekly classes. 7-8:30 p.m. Pronto Restaurant, 13408 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami. \$10. Details: (305) 323-6735.

Friday 1/7

PROGRAM II

Miami City Ballet presents Pro-

calendar of events

To submit

This is a calendar of selected events in Greater Miami for the week beginning Thursday, January 6, 2011.

Information must be received in writing two weeks before the event. Include costs, details, relevant phone numbers and photos if possible.

Send to:

Miami Today Calendar
Attention Jacquelyn Weiner
710 Brickell Ave, Miami, FL 33131
E-mail:
calendar@miamitodaynews.com

DANCE cont.

gram II of its 25th Anniversary Season, featuring the company premiere of Twyla Tharp's "Baker's Dozen" and George Balanchine's "La Sonnambula" and "Western Symphony." 8 p.m. Jan. 7 and 8. 2 p.m. Jan. 9. Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$19-\$169. *Details:* (305) 929-7010 or www.miamicityballet.org.

WINNING MOVES

Miami-Dade County Choreography Fellowship recipients' work is showcased in "Miami Dances." 8 p.m. Additional performance Jan. 8. Byron Carlyle Theater, 500 71st St., Miami Beach. \$8-\$15. *Details:* (305) 674-1040 or www.floridadanceassociation.org.

FILM

Thursday 1/6

JUST ONE NIGHT

In "The Freebie," a couple with a stellar relationship but lackluster love life makes a deal: one night of freedom, no questions asked. Will a no-strings-attached "freebie" cure their ailing sex life? 6:45 and 8:30 p.m. Coral Gables Art Cinema, 260 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. \$5-\$9. *Details:* (786) 385-9689 or info@coralgablesinematheque.org or www.cinematheque.org.

FAILED FÊTE

"Change of Plans," ("Le Code a Changé") the work of Oscar- and Cesar-nominated director Danièle Thompson, centers on a dinner party gone wrong. Ten acquaintances—each struggling to mask their personal problems—gather for a night of wine, food and fun. Before long, all walls come down as dissatisfaction between couples emerges and ongoing affairs become obvious. 6:50 p.m. In French with English subtitles. Miami Dade College Tower Theater, 1508 SW Eighth St., Miami. \$6. *Details:* (305) 643-8706 or www.mdc.edu/culture/tower.htm.

UGLY REVENGE

In 2010 French film "Leaving," ("Partir") the bourgeois wife of a successful doctor living in the south of France finds refuge from her lackluster life in a passionate affair with the young Ivan, an immigrant ex-con working on her family's property. Wracked with guilt, she confesses to her husband, whose retaliation unleashes a series of ugly events. In French with English subtitles. 9:15 p.m. Miami Dade College Tower Theater, 1508 SW Eighth St., Miami. \$6. *Details:* (305) 643-8706 or www.mdc.edu/culture/tower.htm.

MUSIC

Friday 1/7

STUDENTS STRUM

The Florida International University Classical Guitar ensemble performs. 7 p.m. The Wolfsonian-Florida International University, 1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. Free. *Details:* (305) 531-1001 or www.wolfsonian.org.

NOVALIMA

Afro-Peruvian musical group Novalima performs, drawing on influences from reggae, salsa and hip hop. 8 p.m. Grand Central, 697 N Miami Ave., Miami. \$20. *Details:* (305) 672-5202 or

www.grandcentralmiami.com.

Saturday 1/8

ORFF CLASSIC

South Florida choir Seraphic Fire presents Orff's classical piece "Carmina Burana." 8 p.m. John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$15-\$150. *Details:* (305) 949-6722 or www.arshtcenter.org.

ANIMAL TRIBUTE

Orchestra Miami presents Carnival of the Animals, a concert to raise awareness of the Humane Society of Greater Miami's Adopt-a-Pet program. Features piano soloists and a performance by Fantasy Theater Factory. 3 p.m. Gusman Concert Hall at the University of Miami, 1314 Miller Drive, Coral Gables. \$10 children. \$15 adults. *Details:* (305) 274-2103 or www.orchestramiami.org.

Sunday 1/9

POP OP

Florida International University music students perform popular opera selections. 3 p.m. Bass Museum of Art, 2100 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Free for members. Cost of admission for others, which is \$6-\$8. *Details:* (305) 673-7530 or www.bassmuseum.org.

VIOLIN DUO

Acclaimed violinists Ania Filochowska and Piotr Filochowski perform in concert. The duo—siblings from Warsaw, Poland—have played at venues throughout Europe and prestigious US facilities like Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center. Concert followed by a waterfront wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. 4 p.m. Rosenstiel School Auditorium at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Virginia Key. \$25. *Details:* (305) 421-4061 or clovinsky@rsmas.miami.edu.

YOUNG TALENT

The Miami International Piano Festival's Aventura Cultural Series continues with a performance by 19-year-old pianist Luis Urbina and 15-year-old violinist Michael Province. Mr. Urbina has performed with legendary violinist Ida Haendel in New York and Michael was featured in the documentary "The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies." The two are to play solo works and partner for Grieg's "Violin Sonata in G" and Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole." 4 p.m. Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, 3385 NE 188th St., Aventura. \$30. *Details:* (954) 462-0222 or www.aventuracenter.org.

Wednesday 1/12

IRVING'S HITS

"Say It With Music: The Songs of Irving Berlin" is a 64-song revue including Mr. Berlin's classic songs "Cheek to Cheek," "They Say It's Wonderful" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." Judy Scott and other guest stars are to perform. 8 p.m. Jan. 12-14, 2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 15 and 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 16. Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, 3385 NE 188th St., Aventura. \$32. *Details:* (954) 462-0222 or www.aventuracenter.org.

OUTDOORS

Saturday 1/8

ROOFTOP YOGA

Instructors lead the way through a Vinyasa Yoga Flow class on the roof

of the Mayfair Hotel. Begins with a series of sun salutations, synchronizing breathing with postures and movements. 8:30 a.m. Mayfair Hotel & Spa, 3000 Florida Ave., Coconut Grove. \$15. *Details:* (305) 441-0000 or www.mayfairhotellandspa.com.

NATURAL HISTORY

Explore North Miami's Greynolds Park, Miami-Dade County's second-oldest park, with a naturalist guide describing the area's flora, fauna and history. 9 a.m. Greynolds Park, 17530 W Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach. \$3. Reservations recommended. *Details:* (305) 949-1741 or www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/greynolds.asp.

KAYAK THE KEY

Happen upon great blue herons, upside down jellyfish and spotted eagle rays by kayak of a guided tour of the forgotten natural side of Key Biscayne. 1:30-4 p.m. Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 6767 Crandon Blvd. \$44. *Details:* (305) 365-3018 or www.miamidade.gov/parks.

Sunday 1/9

PADDLE THE GABLES

Take in The City Beautiful's memorable sites by water on a Historic Coral Gables Waterway Canoe Adventure. 9 a.m.-noon. A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72nd Ave., Coral Terrace. \$33. *Details:* (305) 365-3018 or http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/ad_barnes.asp.

WADING WONDERS

Catch an up-close glimpse of wading birds and other wildlife on a guided kayak exploration of the Oleta River and its mangrove-lined creeks. Included is an opportunity to visit an archeological site where Tequesta Indians lived more than 2,000 years ago. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. East Greynolds Northeast Regional Dog Park, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach. \$25. *Details:* (305) 945-3425 or www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/greynolds.asp.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday 1/10

PARKING AUTHORITY

The Miami Parking Authority holds a special board meeting. 9 a.m. Miami Parking Authority, 40 NW Third St., suite 1103, Miami. *Details:* (305) 373-6789 ext. 237 or www.miamiparking.com.

Wednesday 1/12

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

The City of Miami Arts and Entertainment Council meets. Noon. Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, commission chambers, Coconut Grove. *Details:* (305) 860-3823 or www.miamigov.com.

GROVE TALKS

The City of Miami's Coconut Grove Implementation Committee meets. 5:30 p.m. Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, staff room, Coconut Grove. *Details:* (305) 250-5404 or www.miamigov.com.

Thursday 1/13

CITY COMMISSION

The Miami City Commission meets. 9 a.m. Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, commission chambers, Coconut Grove. *Details:* www.miamigov.com.

6 To Plan 4

JUANES

Latin pop rock sensation Juanes performs in Miami. 8 p.m. April 15. American Airlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$50.25-\$124.55. *Details:* (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

ZOO BASH

The annual Feast with the Beasts returns. Enjoy a night of live entertainment, wild-animal encounters, open bars and culinary samplings from 40 of South Florida's best restaurants. 8 p.m.-midnight. March 4. Zoo Miami, 12400 SW 152nd St., Richmond Heights. \$175. *Details:* (305) 255-5551 or www.fwtb.org.

FORECAST 2011

The University of Miami's Center for Hemispheric Policy presents "Forecast 2011: Economic and Political Risk Scenarios for Latin America." 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 28. Four Seasons Hotel Miami, 1435 Brickell Ave., Miami. \$100. *Details:* (305) 284-9918 or chp-rsvp@miami.edu or www.miami.edu/chp.

HOUSE TOUR

The Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce hosts a tour of six homes on the island. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 5. Calusa Park, Crandon Blvd. before

Village of Key Biscayne entrance, Key Biscayne. \$30 in advance. \$40 at the door. *Details:* (305) 361-5207 or www.keybiscaynecchamber.org.

IN AND OUT

Learn "How to get started in Export and Import" at a Florida Foreign Trade Association seminar series. Includes discussion of international terms of sale, US government export controls and buyer/seller responsibilities in foreign transactions. 12:30-4 p.m. March 29 and March 31. Miami Free Zone, 2305 NW107th Ave., Doral. \$175. *Details:* (305) 471-0737 or info@ffta.com or www.ffta.com.

PLAY READING

Be among the first to hear a reading of Jacquelyn Reingold's new play "Acapulco" starring Evan Handler. Ms. Reingold is a writer for HBO's "In Treatment." Mr. Handler is known for his role in "Californication" as Charlie Runkle and in "Sex in the City" as Charlotte's second husband Harry Goldenblatt. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 and 31. SoBe Institute of the Arts, 2100 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. Free. *Details:* (305) 674-9220 or www.sobearts.org.

MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS

TARGUS TALKS

TARGUSinfo holds a meeting. About 250 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 7. Doral Golf Resort & Spa, 4400 NW 87th Ave., Doral. *Details:* www.targusinfo.com.

SCIENCE SUMMIT

Elsevier Science holds a conference. About 500 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 9. Hyatt Regency Miami, 400 SE Second Ave., Miami. *Details:* www.elsevier.com.

BAR MEET

The American Bar Association holds a meeting. About 30 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 9. EPIC Hotel, 270 Biscayne Boulevard Way, Miami. *Details:* www.abanet.org.

APPRAISAL FOUNDATION

The Appraisal Foundation holds a meeting. About 60 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 8. Sonesta Bayfront Hotel Coconut Grove,

2889 McFarlane Road, Coconut Grove. *Details:* www.appraisalfoundation.org.

HAIR RESTORATION

The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery meets. About 20 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 9. Hilton Bentley Miami/South Beach, 101 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach. *Details:* www.ishrs.org.

DESIGN TIME

Silpada Designs holds an event. About 712 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 9. Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay, 1633 N Bayshore Drive, Miami. *Details:* www.silpada.com.

ON H2O

The Water Environment Federation holds an event. About 250 attendees expected. Ends Jan. 13. Hilton Miami Downtown, 1601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. *Details:* www.wef.org.

SOURCE: GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday 1/6

GONE PICKIN'

Get outside and explore South Miami-Dade with a stop at Redlands landmark Burr's Berry Farm. Take a seat at a nearby picnic table and enjoy homemade strawberry milkshakes, fresh produce and strawberry-cinnamon coffee cake while the berries are in season. Burr's Berry stand, 12741 Hainlin Mill Drive (SW 216th St.), Homestead. *Details:* (305) 251-0145 or www.redlandriot.com/Burrs.html.

CONNOISSEUR GATHERING

Meet other wine enthusiasts with this weekly wine sampling club, La Bottega Enoteca Sociale. Six to eight wines are to be served, paired with meats and cheeses. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Calamari, 3540 Main Highway, Coconut Grove. \$20. *Details:* info@labottegasociale.com or www.labottegasociale.com.

TREASURE GALORE

The Treasure Hunters Roadshow makes a stop in South Florida. Talk to world-renowned antique and collectible experts about your unusual finds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Ends Jan. 8. Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel Miami Airport, 7707 NW 103rd St., Hialeah Gardens. Free. *Details:* (217) 726-7590 or www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com.

REDUCE STRESS

Relax with Introduction to Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, a Baptist Health program led by art therapist Carol Kaminsky. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Edward and Arlene Feller Community Room at Ludovici Park, 17641 Old Cutler Road, second floor, Aventura. Free. RSVP required. *Details:* (786) 596-3812.

Friday 1/7

BENEATH THE STARS

Stroll through downtown Coral

Gables Friday evening and find live entertainment, al fresco dining and car-free streets along "restaurant row" for the monthly "Giralda Under the Stars" outdoor dining event. Participating bars and restaurants include Bangkok Bangkok II, Miss Saigon Bistro, The Bar and Castelluccio Ristorante. 6 p.m. 100 block of Giralda Avenue between Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Galiano Street, Coral Gables. *Details:* www.shopcoralgables.com.

Sunday 1/9

JEWISH JUSTICE

The Jewish Museum of Florida kicks off the eighth Florida Jewish History Month with "Florida Jews in Justice." The free panel discussion includes commentary by former chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court Arthur England, retired assistant director of the Miami-Dade Police Department Irving "Red" Heller, assistant US attorney Karen Gilbert and US bankruptcy judge A. Jay Cristol. 10:30 a.m. Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. *Details:* (305) 672-5044 or www.jewishmuseum.com.

TEA TIME

Enjoy an authentic afternoon tea, including scones, savories and desserts. 3 p.m. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Jean DuPont Shehan Visitor Center Ballroom, Coral Gables. \$17 for children under 12. Fairchild members \$27. Others \$37. *Details:* (305) 667-1651 or www.fairchildgarden.org.

Tuesday 1/11

EATING WELL

Dietician Rebecca Barreto discusses "Eating Well for Life." Westchester Health Resource Center, 8820 Bird Road, suite 400, Westchester. Free. RSVP required. *Details:* (786) 596-3812.

calendar of events

SPECIAL EVENTS cont.

Wednesday 1/12 TREATING PAIN

Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Rafael Fernandez hosts "Get Your Life Back: End Knee Pain," a free informative event presented by Baptist Health. 6-7 p.m. Doctors Hospital Cafeteria, 5000 University Drive, Coral Gables. RSVP required. *Details:* (786) 596-3812.

Thursday 1/13 LOW IMPACT

Steve Glenn, founder and CEO of LivingHomes and developer of the

first LEED Platinum home in the US, gives a talk on "High Design, Low Impact: Building LivingHomes." Mr. Glenn will discuss materials, finishes, fixtures and systems that dramatically reduce a building's energy and water use and reduce indoor air pollution. 6-7:30 p.m. Design Within Reach, 927 Lincoln Road, suite 101, Miami Beach. Free. *Details:* <http://livinghomes011311.eventbrite.com/>.

THEATER

Friday 1/7 READY FOR CHANGE

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Sharon Gless performs in the Southeastern premiere of "A

Round-Heeled Woman." Based on the true memoir of Jane Juska, a former high school English teacher who seeks intimacy after being celibate for 30 years. See what happens after she takes out an ad in the personals section of the "New York Review of Books" reading "Before I turn 67 - next March - I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like." 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Ends Jan. 30. GableStage, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables. \$37.50-\$47.50. *Details:* (305) 445-1119 or www.gablestage.org.

"TITLE OF SHOW"

Instructors from The Roxy Theatre Group, a nonprofit arts organization for children, perform "Title of Show." The musical follows friends trying to create an original musical for submission to the New York Musical Theatre Festival. Meant for ages 17 and up. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 3 p.m. Sunday. Ends Jan. 9. The Roxy Performing Arts Center, 1645 SW 107th Ave., Miami. \$10 students. \$12 others. *Details:* (305) 226-0030 or susannepinedo@gmail.com or www.roxypac.com.

FILMING IN MIAMI

These film permits were issued last week by the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment, (305) 375-3288; the Miami Mayor's Office of Film, Arts & Entertainment, (305) 860-3823; and the Miami Beach Office of Arts, Culture and Entertainment-Film and Print Division, (305) 673-7070.

ALL HAT PRODUCTIONS. Marina del Rey, CA. Commercial for Cubus Spring/Summer. Crandon Park Beach.
DECON. New York. Commercial for Malibu Carnival. South Pointe Beach.
PLUM TV. New York. Plum TV. Countywide, City of Miami citywide, Miami Beach citywide, countywide.
FRESH HORSES INC. Venice, CA. Beverly Hills Fabulous. Miami Beach citywide.
HIGH NOON PRODUCTIONS LLC. Littleton, CO. My First Sale. City of Miami citywide, Miami Beach citywide, countywide, Coconut Grove, Coconut Grove business district, Dinner Key Marina, Downtown Miami sidewalks, Normandy Island neighborhood.
2C MEDIA INC. North Miami. Venom One. City of Miami citywide, countywide, Miami Beach citywide, Miami-Dade County Fire Department resources.
HD REPUBLIC. Dallas. Get Out! Crandon Park Beach.
RDF MEDIA USA/CLOCK TOWER PRODUCTIONS. Santa Monica, CA. Lizard Lick Towing. Collins Avenue between 41st and 87th streets.
NATIONAL INTERFAITH CABLE COALITION. New York. Miami Boot Camp. Miami-Dade County Corrections & Rehabilitation.
AISHA ENTERPRISES. Miami. Grachi. City of Hialeah Gardens.
EZ3 MEDIA. Chicago. Treasure Hunters Rainbow. City of North Miami, Miami Beach Marina, Sunny Isles Beach.
KIRKSTALL ROAD ENTERPRISES INC. New York. The First 48. Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office. 7691335 CANADAD PRODUCTIONS INC. Montreal. 15 Reasons To Go. Countywide, Little Havana business district sidewalks, Miami Beach citywide, Zoo Miami.
KIRKSTALL ROAD ENTERPRISES INC. New York. Four Weddings. Brickell Avenue sidewalks, Brickell Bay Drive, countywide, Miami Beach citywide.
ENTERTAINMENT ONE TV PRODUCTIONS US INC. Toronto. Miami TNT. Countywide, Miami-Dade Police Resources.

STF PRODUCTIONS INC. Bethesda, MD. America's Most Wanted. Private property.
WALL TO WALL MEDIA. London. Drugs, Inc. 2. City of Miami citywide, City of Miami Fire College, countywide.
OMEDIA. Portland, OR. P.O.T.S. City of Miami citywide, City of Miami Beach.
FLORIDA MARLINS LP. Miami. Marlins Stadium Construction Cam. Robert King High, Florida Marlins Stadium.
MPH ENTERTAINMENT INC. Burbank, CA. Women Marshals. City of Miami citywide, countywide, Miami Beach citywide.
MARKUS MUELLER PRODUCTIONS. Miami Beach. Stills for Heine. North Bay Road between 41st and 64th streets.
THE BOLLOCKS PRODUCTION LLC. Asheville, NC. Stills for LFL. North Bay Road between 41st and 64th streets.
AMERICAN GREETINGS CORP. Cleveland. Stills for Greeting Card photo shoot. Miami Beach citywide.
LEW PRODUCTIONS/LAUREL WELLS INC. Brooklyn. Stills for American Eagle Kids. Peacock Park, Westwind Lakes Park.
SID HOELTZELL PHOTOGRAPHY INC. Miami. Stills for City of Miami Beach Newsprint. Countywide, City of Miami citywide, Miami Beach citywide.
P. STUDIO PRODUCTIONS. Miami Beach. Stills for PStudio. Biscayne Boulevard, Brickell Avenue, countywide, Design District, Miami Beach citywide, Virginia Key Beach.
VENUS FASHION INC. Jacksonville. Stills for 2011 Ladies Fall Fashion. Amelia Earhart Park.
SIX DEGREES PRODUCTION. Miami Beach. Stills for Fashion Catalog. City of Miami citywide, countywide, Miami Beach citywide.
ASPENWOOD ADVERTISING/COLDWATER CREEK. Sandpoint, ID. Stills for 2011 Summer Campaign. Crandon Park Beach, Miami Beach citywide, North Bay Road between 41st and 64th streets.
SELECT SERVICES INC. Miami. Stills for Select Service. City of Miami citywide, countywide, Miami Beach citywide.
METROMOTION PRODUCTIONS. New York. Stills for Rockport. City of Miami citywide, Coconut Grove, countywide, Miami Beach citywide.
SPUR PRODUCTIONS INC. New York. Stills for Justice Fashion. Unincorporated Miami-Dade County.
DENNIS MOSNER PHOTOGRAPHY. Princeton, NJ. Stills for Babies 'R' Us/Toys 'R' Us. Miami Beach citywide.
FIVE POINTS PRODUCTIONS. New York. Stills for Target. Miami Beach citywide.

Industrial/office group set for Tallahassee lobbying mission

Joining industry's collaborative aim

By YUDISLAIDY FERNANDEZ

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties' South Florida chapter has an ambitious to-do list for 2011 that focuses on getting members more involved and maintaining a strong voice on legislative matters affecting its industry.

Michael Silver, new president of NAIOP in South Florida, is taking on the reins, representing 355 members in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

One of his goals is to get the members, including developers, owners and other professionals in office, industrial and mixed-use real estate, more involved in the association's 20-plus committees, as it takes teamwork to put events and programs together.

One of NAIOP's biggest annual happenings is a bus tour held in both Miami-Dade and Broward.

A committee works throughout the year to put together the tours, in which participants see and visit about 40 office and commercial properties.

"They walk through some of the properties, where owners get to talk about that property specifically and they get to learn more about each individual property," said Mr. Silver, who is a first vice president of industrial brokerage services at CB Richard Ellis.

He has been involved with the association for several decades, he said, chairing numerous committees and sitting on its board of directors.

Another NAIOP committee organizes the collegiate challenge, a competition the association started this year.

The sponsor, commercial realty firm Flagler, challenged the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University to cre-

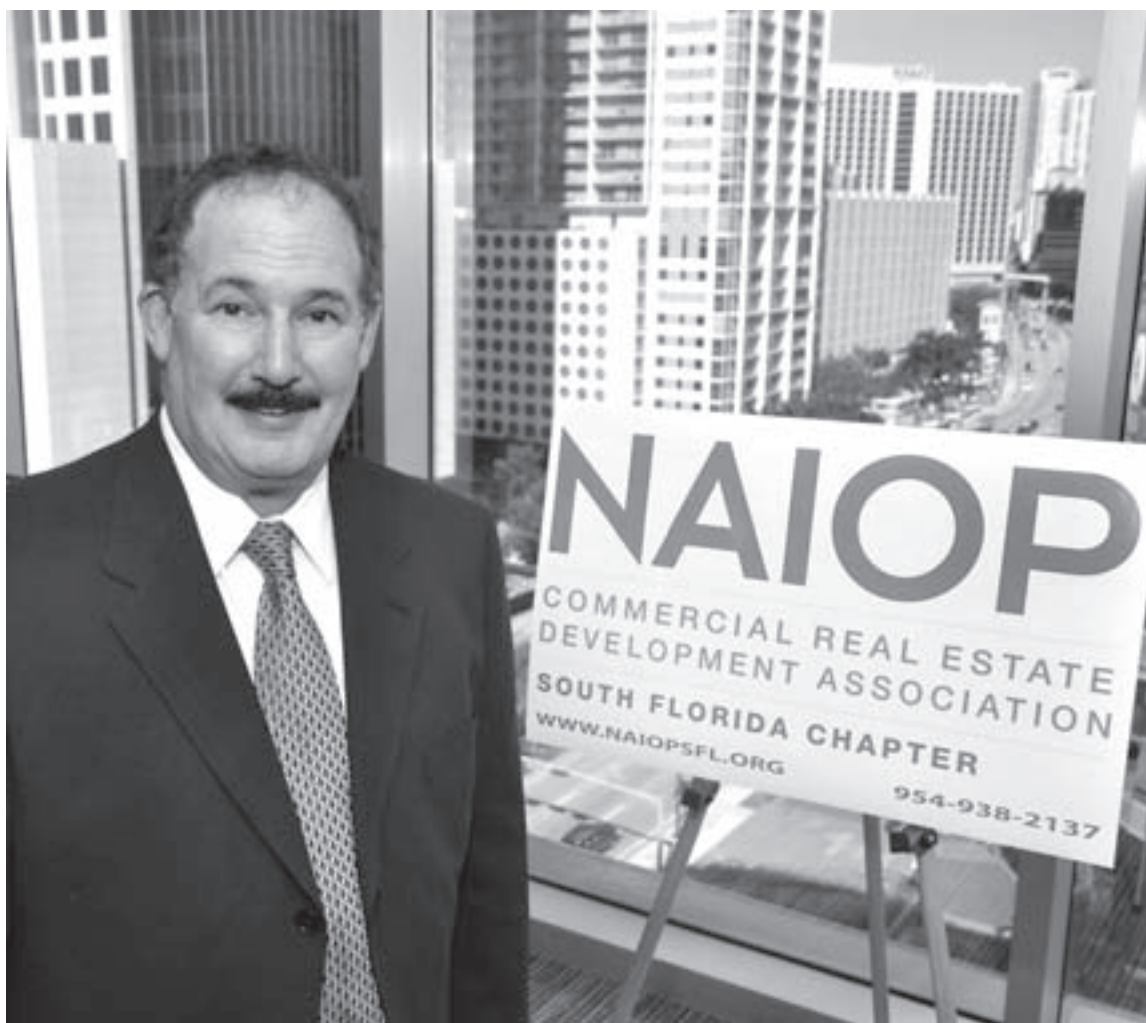


Photo by Maxine Usdan

Michael Silver seeks to have all realty associations stand together on their Florida legislative efforts.

ate a development plan for an eight-block site in downtown Miami.

Nova won the competition and its success motivated the association to organize it again for 2011, he said, with other colleges such as Florida International University possibly joining.

A major reason members attend meetings and events is to network, Mr. Silver said, which amidst a challenging commercial market has become key for some to get deals done.

The association organizes monthly meetings with real estate expert guest speakers, educational sessions and after-hour socials perfect for networking.

"The relationships you build with members lead to building

more business out on the field," he said.

On the legislative front, NAIOP is taking a trip to Tallahassee Jan. 10-11 to lobby on issues affecting the commercial development community in South Florida.

Among main issues the association plans to focus on this legislative session are promoting funding for transportation infrastructure, growth management and streamlining sales tax on Internet purchases.

Transportation topics on the association's radar include the re-authorization of the Federal Transportation Act, Florida High Speed Rail and a proposed federal transportation infrastructure bank.

In the area of growth man-

agement, the association is to discuss the court ruling on SB360, the Community Renewal Act; the future of the Department of Community Affairs, and mobility fees.

It hopes to encourage Florida to join the compact to collect sales tax on Internet purchases, discuss the competitive disadvantage of bricks & mortar retailers as well as the growth of Internet sales, and the state's budget deficit.

A second visit is planned to Washington, DC, in February.

This is going to be a busy year for Mr. Silver, as he's also serving as Florida president of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, an international group serving commercial brokerage professionals.

He hopes his leadership in these two influential realty organizations can help increase collaboration among local real estate groups to develop a stronger voice.

An example of how the real estate industry benefited from forming a united front was seen in 2010 in its opposition to Amendment 4, a proposal on the Nov. 2 ballot that would have allowed voters to rule on changes to a community's comprehensive land use plan. The amendment was defeated.

"When there are major issues, all the associations huddle up and see what we can do about it," Mr. Silver said. "But since Amendment 4 was such a huge issue, it solidified this coalition."

This year, many local real estate groups are taking collaboration one step further.

Organizations such as NAIOP, the Commercial Industrial Association of South Florida, Miami Association of Realtors, the local chapter of the Certified Commercial Investment Member or CCIM, and the Commercial Real Estate Women are uniting not only to support issues affecting the industry but to better service members.

Since many realty professionals are members of multiple associations, Mr. Silver said, a master calendar has been created that all members will be able to access, listing events and meetings for each organization to avoid overlapping and keep all members informed of what each group is organizing.

Continuing to stand together in legislative efforts is a top priority.

"On legislative issues, if there is something one organization feels affects all associations," Mr. Silver explained, "we will be able to discuss it among all the organizations and see how they want to react to it."

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